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Ann Arbor Observer

May 2013

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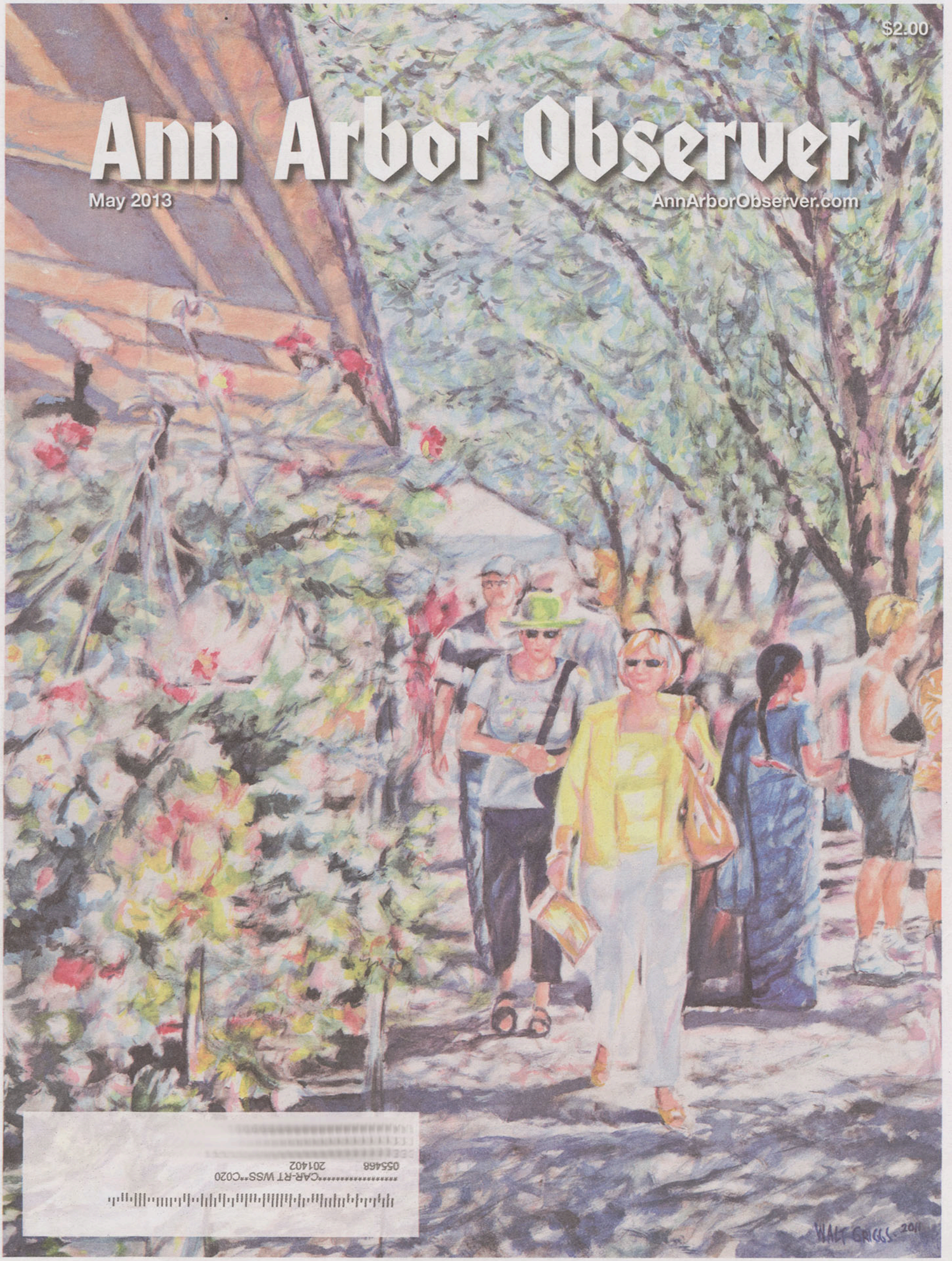

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What's happening

KERRYTOWN® Market & Shops

MAY '13

SATURDAY, MAY 11th

Free Portraits with Mom!

Farmer's Market, 10am - 12pm

Myra Klarman (**myraklarman.com**) will photograph moms with their children. Come back on or after May 26th to pick up your complimentary prints posted on the second floor outside Encore Studio.

mother goose storytime — Every First Sunday • 2pm at Hollander's

Humpty Dumpty & Mother Goose

SUNDAY, MAY 5th
2pm in Hollander's

Ring the Bells

Play the Kerrytown Chime!

EVERY SAT:
10:30 - 11:00am
WED & FRI:
noon - 12:30pm

16 HANDS

SAT., MAY 5th
Follow the Fairy Trail to 16 Hands for a chance to win a miniature Fairy Garden!

BEGINNING SAT., MAY 25th
16 Hands Annual Garden Show
Artful Gardens – a collection of functional and decorative items for garden & wildlife lovers with a focus on earth/animal friendly designs and materials.

EVERYDAY WINES

WEEKLY WINE TASTINGS
SATURDAYS 4:00pm - 5:00pm
No cost, no reservations. What a deal! Of course, we do get to pick the wines. And, every 3rd Saturday (**MAY 18**) we also offer food pairings (optional); noshes from local businesses that complement the selected wines for $5.00

ENCORE STUDIO

SATURDAY, MAY 11th
Come and enjoy champagne and strawberries to celebrate Mother's Day!

In the District

Ann Arbor the farmers market Buy Local

WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS
The Ann Arbor Farmers Market: 7am – 3pm
SUNDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER
The Sunday Artisan's Market: 11am - 4pm

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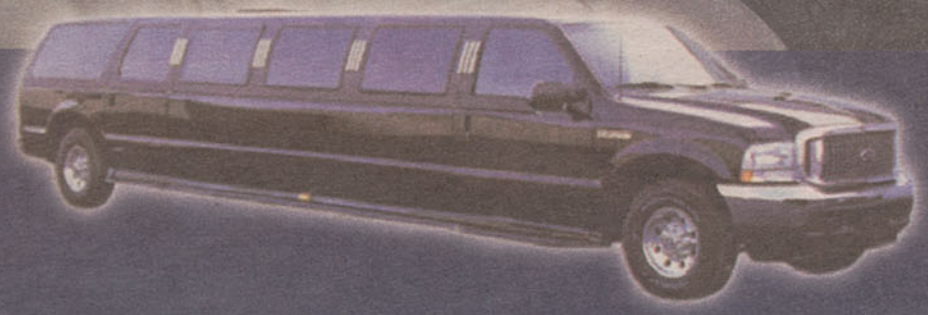

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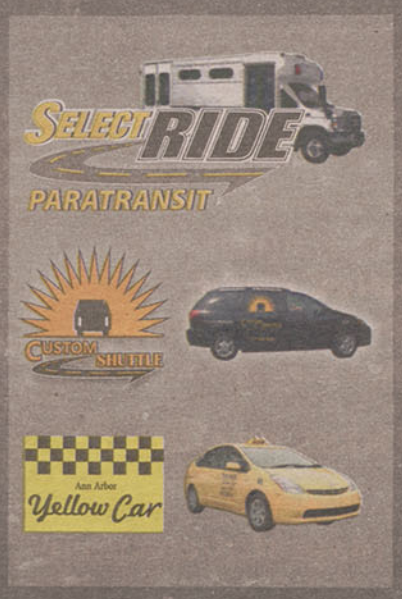

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Lloyd & Emily B.
Tappan, Pattengill and Bryant parents

Washtenaw County residents are invited to submit enrollment applications for their incoming Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th grade students through the AAPS School of Choice program.

Elementary Schools of Choice:
Abbot, Bryant (K-2), Carpenter, Dicken, Eberwhite, Lakewood, Logan, Northside, Pittsfield, and Pattengill (3-5).

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Ann Arbor Farmers Market. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 7 a.m.–3 p.m. — 315 Detroit St. Wednesday hours are back for the season! *Watch for the return of the Evening Market in June*. Details: 734.794.6255 / **www.a2gov.org/market**.

Canoe and kayak on the Huron River! Argo Canoe Livery is open in May 7 days/week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. River trips and stillwater paddling are available at the Argo Canoe Livery every day.

SATURDAY, MAY 4. **Noon Canoe and Kayak Auction** — Argo Canoe Livery, 1055 Longshore Dr. Join us for a public auction of used and damaged boats. Featured this year are aluminum canoes, 2-person kayaks, 1-person kayaks and a rowboat. Details: 734.794.6240 / **www.a2gov.org/canoe**.

SATURDAY, MAY 11. **10 a.m.–2 p.m. Outdoor Swimming Pool Set Up** — Veterans, Buhr and Fuller park pools. Pick a pool, and help us paint, pick weeds, wax the slide, hang signage and clean up to make our pools and facilities the best they can be. Contact volunteer@a2gov.org / 734.794.6230, ext. 42510 / **www.a2gov.org/volunteer**.

SUNDAY, MAY 12. **Mother's Day Golf Special** — Huron Hills Golf Course (3465 E. Huron River Drive) and Leslie Park Golf Course (2120 Traver Road). Moms play for free all day with paid child. Details: **www.a2golf.org**.

SUNDAY, MAY 12. **1–3 p.m. Family Splash Days** — Mack Indoor Pool, 715 Brooks St. Held on the second Sunday of each month, activities include crafts and games with treats and prizes for children. Fees: adult $5; youth (17 and under) and senior (55+) $4. Ages 3 and under free with a paid adult swimmer. Details: 734.794.6237 / **www.a2gov.org/mack.**

SATURDAY, MAY 18. **9 a.m.–noon Spring Adopt-a-Park Kick Off** — Help beautify and learn more about your neighborhood park. Training, tools and support provided. Call 734.794.6627 / Adopt-A-Park@a2gov.org / **www.a2gov.org/adopt-a-park**.

SATURDAY, MAY 25. **Gallup Canoe Livery opens** — 3000 Fuller Road. Following recent renovations, Gallup Canoe Livery is now set to be open 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. 734.794.6240 www.a2gov.org/canoe.

SUNDAY, MAY 26. **1–2:30 p.m. Cultural Arts Series — Of Many Faiths: An Exhibit of the Art of Fred and Sue Beutler and Live Music by Mitch Chang (of Los Angeles, California).** Local artists Fred and Sue Beutler have explored the intersection of art and religion for many years. In this show of Fred's photography and Sue's oil paintings, diverse religions are evoked, from Russian Orthodox through Aztec. (Visit www.ukulelewebsite.com)

TUESDAY, MAY 28. **6–7:30 p.m. Stand-up Paddling (SUP) 101** — Argo Canoe Livery, 1055 Longshore Dr. SUP is one of the fastest-growing water sports. We will provide the boards, paddles, leashes and lifejackets; Urban Wave will provide the instruction. Same class offered once a month May-August. For ages 13 to adult. Fee: $30/person. Pre registration required: **www.a2gov.org/parks.** Call for details 734.794.6240 / **www.a2gov.org/canoe**.

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The Ann Arbor Observer (ISSN #0192–5717) is published thirteen times a year, once each month plus a special issue in August (the City Guide), by the Ann Arbor Observer Company, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Telephone: (734) 769–3175. USPS #454–470. Member Certified Audit of Circulations, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Ann Arbor, MI.

Subscriptions: $20 for one year, $35 for two years. Write to the Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Telephone (734) 769–3175. Fax (734) 769–3375. Email: subscribe@aaobserver.com

Manuscripts: The Observer welcomes freelance material. Send manuscripts to Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Email: Hilton@aaobserver.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

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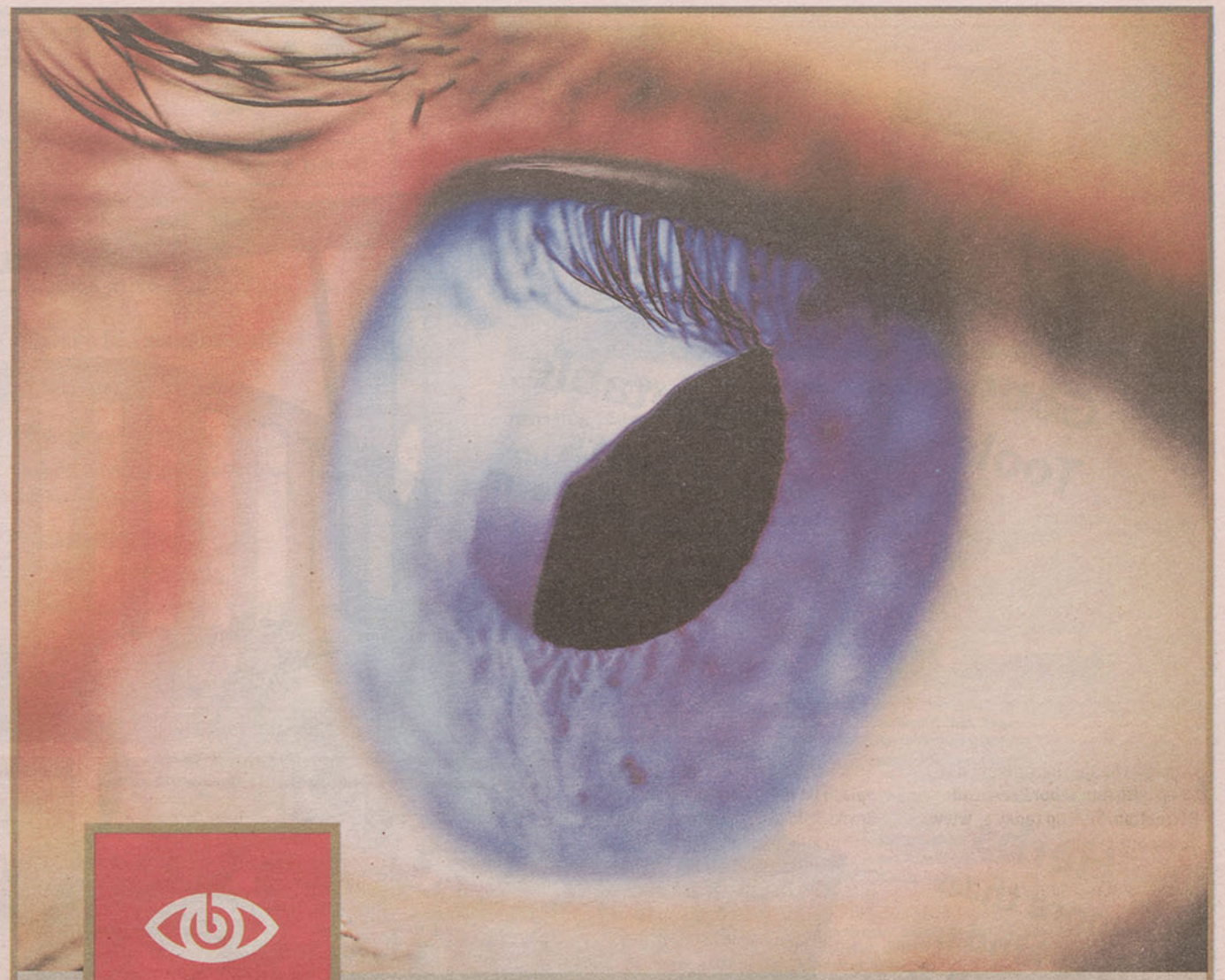

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Ann Arbor Observer

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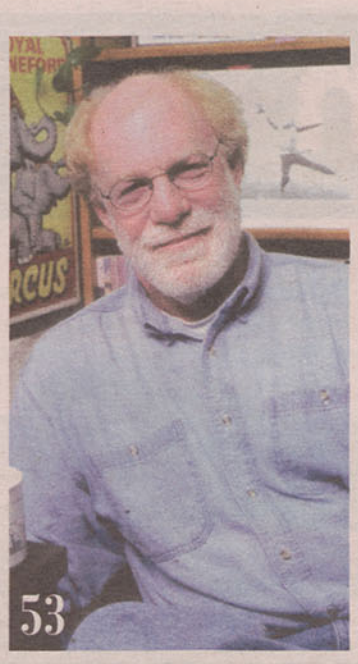

53 Events
John Hinchey, Katie Whitney, & Stephanie Douglass
Daily events in Ann Arbor during May, plus listings of **Films**, p. 61, new exhibits at local **Galleries**, p. 68 (with a review of the Gallery Project show *Circus*) and reviews of chamber music by Stravinsky and Schoenberg, singer-songwriter Grant-Lee Phillips, poets Jack Ridl and Chris Dombrowski, alt-country band Shinyribs, *33 Variations* at the Purple Rose, and the Cobblestone Farm Spring Fling.

50 Music at Nightspots
John Hinchey
Shows at the Ark, the Blind Pig, and more, plus a review of Celtic Americana band Ghost City Searchlight.

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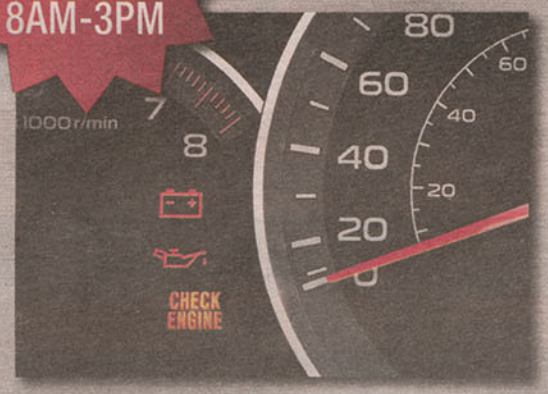

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UpFront

Can't buy me love: The abrupt resignaton of schools superintendent Pat Green may give pause to school board members who, in November 2010, decided to dramatically raise the superintendent's salary. Green's predecessor, Todd Roberts, earned $175,000; Green was offered $245,000—in order, then-board president Deb Mexicotte said, "to bring the best to the district."

Before the ink dried on Green's contract, commenters were waxing indignant over the raise at a time when the district, like every other in Michigan, was hurting badly. As a result, says trustee Andy Thomas—who voted against the increase—Green "got off to a very shaky start."

The superintendent seemed to be unprepared for Ann Arbor's rancorous school politics—which only intensified as the district made state-imposed budget cuts. Strong-willed but thin-skinned, she faced parents angry about the board's decision to cut back on busing, principals and teachers upset about stricter requirements on documenting disciplinary procedures, and repeated sniping from some board members. In the end, even a district-record salary wasn't enough to keep Green here. She'll be gone in June, two years into her five-year contract—leaving her successor to make another $12 million in cuts.

Court reform: At a talk at the Ann Arbor City Club in February, new Michigan Supreme Court justice Bridget McCormack said she'd enjoyed her first weeks on the bench and that her new colleagues had all been warm and helpful. But she admitted to being humbled recently when her son, an eighth grader at Slauson Middle School, asked his mother at the breakfast table, "Mom, do you know anything about the Constitution?"

As it happens, McCormack not only knows a fair amount about the U.S. Constitution, she has thoughts about how Michigan's constitution could be improved—by changing the system that put her on the bench.

"Michigan Supreme Court candidates are nominated at the major political party conventions," she told the group. "The November election is nonpartisan, but the hoops we jump through to appear on the state ballot are held by the state politicos."

McCormack believes that may finally change, because people across the political spectrum are frustrated with the current system. "Last spring, a bipartisan task force led by two veteran jurists—Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly and Senior Judge James L. Ryan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit—noted that Michigan's process for choosing Supreme Court justices has attracted national attention for its excessive cost, its lack of transparency and its damaging negativity," she said.

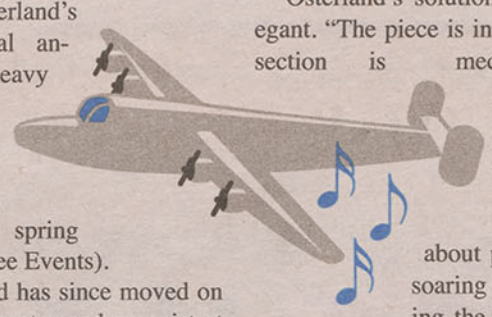
McCormack knows about that, too—she survived "a million-dollar negative ad campaign" to win her seat last November. "My view is that partisanship and secret spending undermine the public's confidence [in] the court, and for understandable reasons," she emails, "and a system with funding transparancy and without party nominations would be a vast improvement."

The Haiti connection: Dick Gordon, host of NPR's "The Story," is based in Chapel Hill, but his path to Ann Arbor this month passed through Haiti. Last year, for a follow-up story on the deadly 2010 earthquake, Gordon went to the town of Léogâne. One of the few institutions still functioning after the quake was the Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haïti. The country's first and only four-year nursing school, FSIL is supported by the Ann Arbor–based Haiti Nursing Foundation.

"The townspeople poured into the [FSIL compound]" after the earthquake, says Ruth Barnard, a retired U-M nursing prof and FSIL's founder. "There were thousands, and they brought people on doors—there was no way to carry them." Barnard had sent a batch of donated sutures to the school just before the quake. The students "didn't just practice with them," she recalls. "They learned suturing and cleansing wounds."

"Léogâne suffered some of the worst losses during the earthquake, and we knew that people turned to the nursing school for help, so it was an obvious destination for us," Gordon emails. Joining the nursing foundation's May 10 fundraiser (see Events) is Gordon's own way of helping. "We're not paying him anything," says executive director Marcia Lane. "He is coming out of the goodness of his heart."

Wings of song: First came composer William Walton's *Spitfire*, an orchestral evocation of the British WWII fighter plane. Then came Bohuslav Martinů's *Thunderbolt P-47,* which gave an American fighter its musical due. And now there's Karl Osterland's *Liberator*, a choral anthem for the B-24 heavy bomber, commissioned by the Ypsilanti Community Choir for its thirtieth-anniversary spring concert on May 2 (see Events).



Though Osterland has since moved on to become music director and organist at Detroit's Trinity Lutheran Church, he was the Ypsilanti Community Choir's "first accompanist thirty years ago," he recalls. "Denise Zellner was the founding director, and we had worked together at Musical Youth International and spent summers touring with high school students—which builds quite a bond, let me tell you!"

Ariel Toews-Ricotta has led the choir since Zellner's death in 2006. "They contacted me last year because I'd done an arrangement of the spiritual "Rise Up, Shepherd," and they asked to use it at their Christmas concert," explains Osterland. "I attended, and we got talking, and though we had not had any contact since the mid-eighties, we thought, 'Wouldn't it be fun to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary with a new commission?' "

At first, he recalls, the group "didn't know exactly what they were after. I thought it might be appropriate to use local poetry, but I went through a lot of local poetry at the Ypsilanti District Library, and none of it grabbed me. While I was there, I got sidetracked to Ypsilanti's Willow Run bomber plant. It was such a huge thing."

Literally huge: Henry Ford's eighty-acre factory with its mile-long assembly line turned out 8,865 of the so-ugly-it's-cute B-24 heavy bomber that helped win the war against fascism. Fascinated and inspired, Osterland went back to the choir with the idea. "Initially, there were concerns about glorifying war," he says. "But when we talked about it, we decided it had potential."

Osterland's solution is simple but elegant. "The piece is in two sections. One section is mechanical and is supposed to sound like the assembly line … After that, there's another section that talks about planes leaving and soaring into the air, bearing the hopes and dreams of the people.

"It sounds idealized, but it's true," says Osterland, whose day job is president of Ypsilanti's FasTemps staffing agency. "There was a sense of unity of purpose in people during World War II, and that's embodied in what the plant put together in such a short amount of time." ■

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Lessons in Survival

"There was no money for payroll," Amy Rolfes recalls.

In November 2008, Rolfes was a part-time reading consultant at the Family Learning Institute, a free reading program for students in local elementary schools. Then fallout from the Great Recession killed crucial funding sources—and the executive director and three other staffers left.

Determined to keep the clinic alive, Rolfes took over as executive director. "I'm committed 100 percent to this mission," she says. FLI was founded in 1999 to bridge the achievement gap between low-income students, especially African Americans, and their better-off peers.

"Between January and June I was in survival mode," Rolfes recalls. "My mom's a Depression child, and I can pinch a penny better than anybody." She negotiated a 50 percent rent cut with FLI's "very generous" landlord, Bob Ufer Jr. She turned the heat down so far that she sometimes worked with gloves and coat on. And she persuaded dozens of volunteer tutors—FLI calls them "coaches"—to take on tasks like answering the phone, assembling curriculum materials, and planning the big spelling bee fundraiser (held this year on May 3—see Events).

"I can pinch a penny better than anybody," Rolfes says. She negotiated a rent cut with landlord Bob Ufer Jr., turned down the heat so far that she sometimes worked with gloves and coat on, and persuaded dozens of volunteers to take on tasks previously done by paid staff.

That got FLI through the school year. Then Rolfes held community meetings to put together a new, lower-budget model for the center. Still in place, it continues to rely heavily on volunteers, many of them retired teachers, to do tasks previously performed by paid staff. Development director Dan Rubenstein, like Rolfes and two other employees, works part-time. Rubenstein emails that while he's been able to bring back some of the lost funding from donors and foundations, "the major story is how FLI has become much leaner and more efficient."

The institute now serves about 125 students, most from Ann Arbor. "We aren't drop-in tutoring," emphasizes Rolfes, explaining that students come weekly to follow a structured reading curriculum and are regularly tested through a state reading assessment (there is also limited math tutoring). Most show gains—last year, almost 80 percent improved one or more grade levels in reading. Most kids are referred by their classroom teachers; the off-campus location, says Rolfes, is more comfortable for those who might be embarrassed to be seen receiving special help at school.

FLI's budget today is about $144,000—one-third less than it was in 2008. But for practically the first time in its history, the nonprofit is not in debt—and has even started new initiatives, including an on-site program at Ypsilanti's Parkridge Community Center.

Rolfes is still pinching pennies. Since its students don't arrive until after school, FLI recently rented its space out during the day to the Children's Literacy Network—a nonprofit with a similar mission that works with preschoolers.

MARK BIALEK

Rolfes reads with Family Learning Institute students Moustapha and Fatoumata Camara. "I'm committed 100 percent to this mission," she says.

Kick-started

Local businesses are counting on the crowd.

After spending five tumultuous months in Sweden as an au pair for what she describes as a "crazy, dysfunctional family," Natalie Burg knew her experience would make a great book, but she wasn't sure how to get it published. Burg took the job after graduating with her English literature degree in 2005, but it wasn't the post-grad adventure she'd envisioned. She faced a major communication gap and employers who expected her to assist in recruitment for their religious sect rather than caring for their teenaged children. Burg began piecing together a memoir of the experience in 2008, but she says searching for a

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Gray Bouchard and Melissa Coppola—the "power-folk" duo Match by Match—funded two albums on kickstarter.com. Creative social media campaigns helped get the word out.

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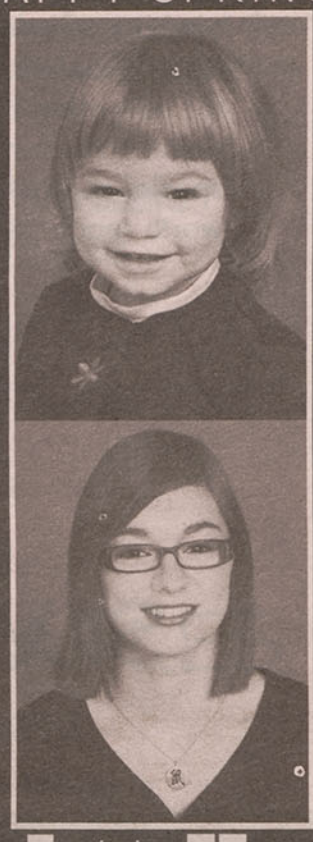
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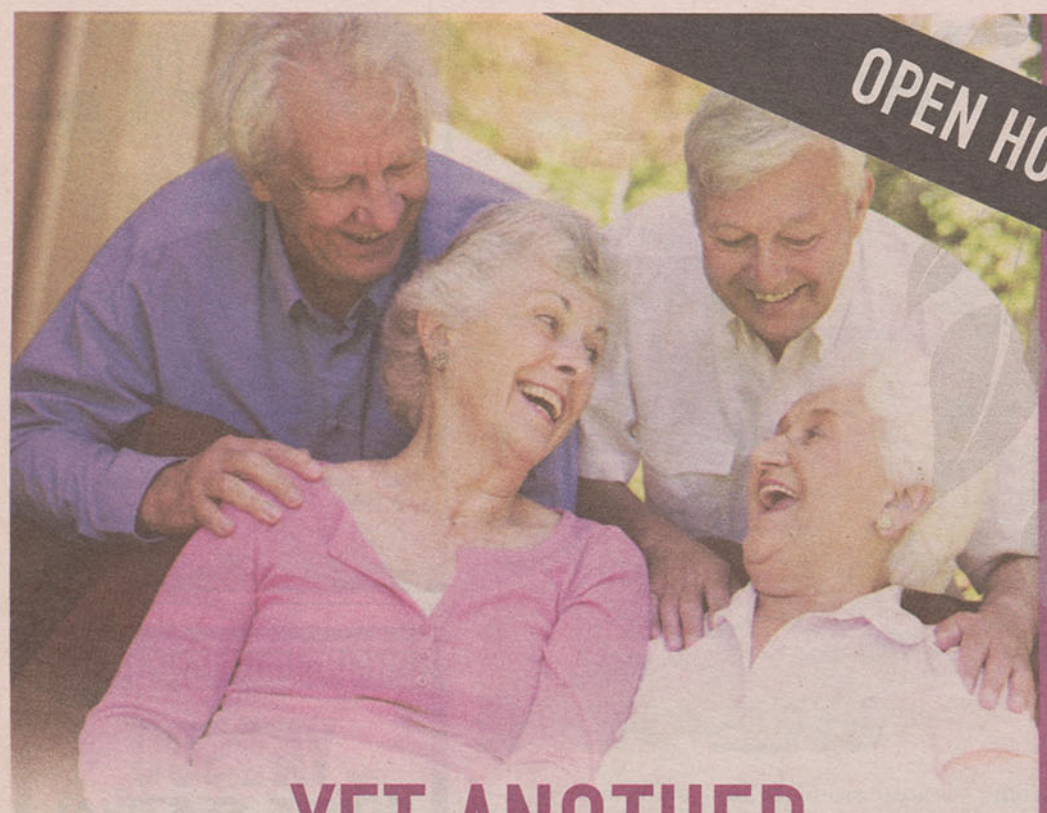

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publisher was "like finding a needle in a haystack."

Last year Burg, who now freelances for the Observer and other local publications, found a solution: "crowdfunding." Burg started a campaign on the website kickstarter.com, asking supporters to pledge money towards editing, printing, and marketing her book. Crowdfunding donors receive rewards, which for Burg's campaign included a copy of the finished memoir and an invite to the book launch party. Over a monthlong campaign, she raised $8,760—$1,760 more than her original goal—and her book, *Swedish Lessons*, is now in the hands of a professional editor.

Burg says the campaign was nerve-racking at times. "It's been such a mind-blowing whirlwind," she says. Things got off to a good start, but "midway through the second week, nothing was coming in, and I thought I was a failure."

As a crowd-funding veteran of sorts, Gray Bouchard says the mid-campaign slump is only to be expected. Bouchard and Melissa Coppola make up the "power-folk" duo Match by Match, which just released its second crowd-funded album, *Vivat Veritas*. Bouchard says the band's first Kickstarter campaign taught him that most of the money comes in the first week and the last week: "There's a lot of excitement when you first announce it, and there's a lot of excitement when you steamroll towards the finish line," he says. That excitement brought Match by Match about $500 over its $3,000 goal for *Vivat Veritas*.

Burg and Bouchard agree that getting the word out via social media is key to a successful crowd-funding campaign, engaging followers through creative content including photo and video updates. Bouchard says the crowd-funding system can be particularly harsh in making a project's financial success "directly proportional" to the general public's interest. "It puts a very direct value on what you're doing as an artist," he says. "On some level, it's humbling in that way."

Birth Mother's Day

More than fifty years after surrendering her son for adoption, Judy Wirth will remember him on May 11.

When her son was born out of wedlock in 1960, Wirth was told to forget about his birth and get on with her life. But like most birth mothers, especially in the era of closed adoptions, she was haunted by the experience, constantly wondering where her firstborn was, worrying about how he was doing, and dreading having her secret exposed.

The day before Mother's Day, Wirth plans to attend, for the eleventh straight year, the local commemoration of Birth Mother's Day, hosted by Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County. "I heard about it through a support group that I was going to," she says. "It just appealed to me that they would do that, that they would honor birth mothers. I came from a generation that didn't honor birth mothers."

The first Birth Mother's Day was observed in Seattle in 1990. Southfield trauma therapist and birth mother Brenda Romanchik introduced the concept to Michigan a few years later, and CSS has hosted the event since 1998. Last year, about seventy-five people showed up, including birth mothers and their families, adoptees and their families, and three birth fathers. The program included poems, readings, music, and testimonials, as well as refreshments, socializing, and hardly any dry eyes.

Even open adoption "has both joy and grief," says CSS preganancy counselor Julie Payne. "They don't have all the questions and wondering [about their children's lives], but they do have an experience that's not recognized by society."

Wirth knows where the son she gave up lives and has supplied him with medical information, but he's chosen not to meet her. Younger birth mothers are more likely to have arranged "open adoptions," where they chose the adoptive parents and negotiated a mutually comfortable level of contact with them and their child. But even open adoption "has both joy and grief," says Julie Payne, the CSS pregnancy counselor who organizes Birth Mother's Day locally. "They don't have all the questions and the wondering [about their children's lives], but they do have an experience that is not recognized by society."

Adoptee Lindsay Darling came for the first time last year with her birth mother, Joyce Basham. "I'm trying to figure out the relationship I have with my birth mom at this point, so I thought that might be a nice way to break the ice a little bit," Darling says, "to let her know I do appreciate and think about what she did for me."

While it's still a serious occasion, the tone has lightened in recent years. Birth mothers "talked about recognizing the grief but also wanting it to be a celebration," Payne says. "They feel like the plan that they made was the best thing they could do for the child at the time and want to celebrate the relationship they have with the child now and the child's life and the fact that they gave the child life."

Romanchik finds this trend dismaying. "It's become more and more celebratory over the years, whereas for me that's not what the day is about," she says. "Even in really good programs, the bottom line is that for birth moms there is a lot of

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trauma involved, there is a lot of loss involved. I guess to only have a celebration kind of diminishes that, not only for the birth mother but for the adoptee as well."

That view hasn't gained much traction at CSS. "I know one birth mother wouldn't come because she found it too depressing," says adoption counselor Elly Falit. "But when Julie told her she could read her own poem or sing her own song, she began to attend. The birth mothers who come don't need to mourn again in a public forum. They need to be assured that they've done what was best for their child and to celebrate *that*."

"I truly believe my participation has helped me face the past," says Judy Wirth. "Being with others who have been through the same ordeal has helped me to have the strength to ultimately face family and friends.

"Besides," she says, "I like to celebrate."

Make Way for Ducklings

The mother mallard waddled right across the storm sewer grating, but her eight tiny, just-hatched babies slipped through the bars.

Sue—not her real name—had just turned into Oak Valley Centre, on her way to meet a friend for an early Sunday breakfast, when she saw the ducklings disappear. Fortuitously, she's a volunteer with the Bird Center of Washtenaw County, and she carries the essential rescue tools—a net, laundry basket, and towels—in her car.

But first, she needed someone to help her lift that heavy grate. Looking toward her destination, Alpha Koney Island, she saw a furniture truck parked outside—and the movers inside, eating breakfast. She went right up to their table and asked, "Can I have a little help here?"

They got up, followed her out, and lifted the grating. Net in hand, she climbed down into "an inch of yucky slime." Among the "frogs, giant worms, and cigarette butts" she found just two of the ducklings. She brought them up

The dangers ducklings face include human storm sewer inlets.

and coddled them in towels in the basket. There were six more still down there somewhere.

She called the Pittsfield Township fire department. "They came right away … and knew just what to do," she says. Parking their truck a couple of inlets upstream, the firefighters gently ran water down the pipe—flushing all six remaining ducklings into her net, alive and well.

It's a rescue worthy of Robert McCloskey's 1941 book *Make Way for Ducklings,* which follows Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings in a walk along busy Boston streets, helped by a police officer and other sympathetic humans. But not every story ends so happily. After ducklings hatch in the spring, "a high percentage … do not make it to water" emails Carol Akerlof, the Bird Center's director. "They are hit by cars, caught by predators, and frequently fall down storm drains that are at the curb."

When they know where a nest is located, volunteers distribute "duckling alerts" advising human neighbors how to assist avian mothers making the perilous trek with their babies. ("You can help by walking with her, nearby, but not close enough to scare her.") If people do see ducklings get trapped, they can call the Bird Center (761–9640) or the Humane Society of Huron Valley (662–5585). Both groups transfer rescued ducklings to the Mallard Marsh Rehabilitation Center in Ypsilanti Township, where they are cared for until they are old enough to survive on their own.

Sue asked that her real name not be published because too many people already call her instead of the Bird Center when they find birds that need help—and even animals: "I get around 5 calls a day for squirrel emergencies alone," she emails, "and I don't 'do' squirrels." (See

question corner

Q: When Fifth Avenue reopened after construction of the underground parking garage, the post office reversed the path of its drop-off drive. Now one has to go past the drop-off area, then turn in counter to the flow of Fifth Avenue's one-way traffic, then exit and drive past the drop-off drive again.

This orientation makes no sense whatsoever. Was it some DDA dream? Or Post Office whim? It certainly isn't rational.

A: The change was made to address a potential hazard from the new parking structure entrance on the west side of Fifth: in the original configuration, the ramp would have blocked departing drivers' view of traffic. Reversing the flow made the turns more awkward, but gave drivers an unobstructed view.

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Story #1

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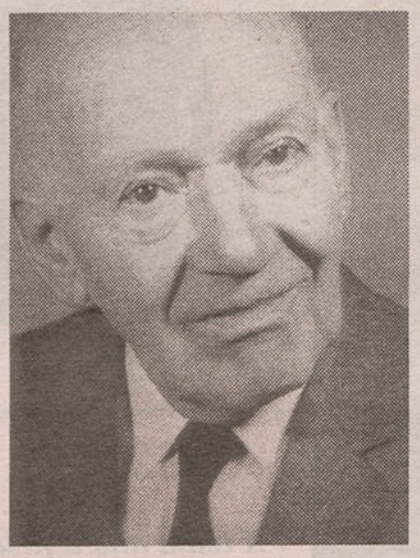

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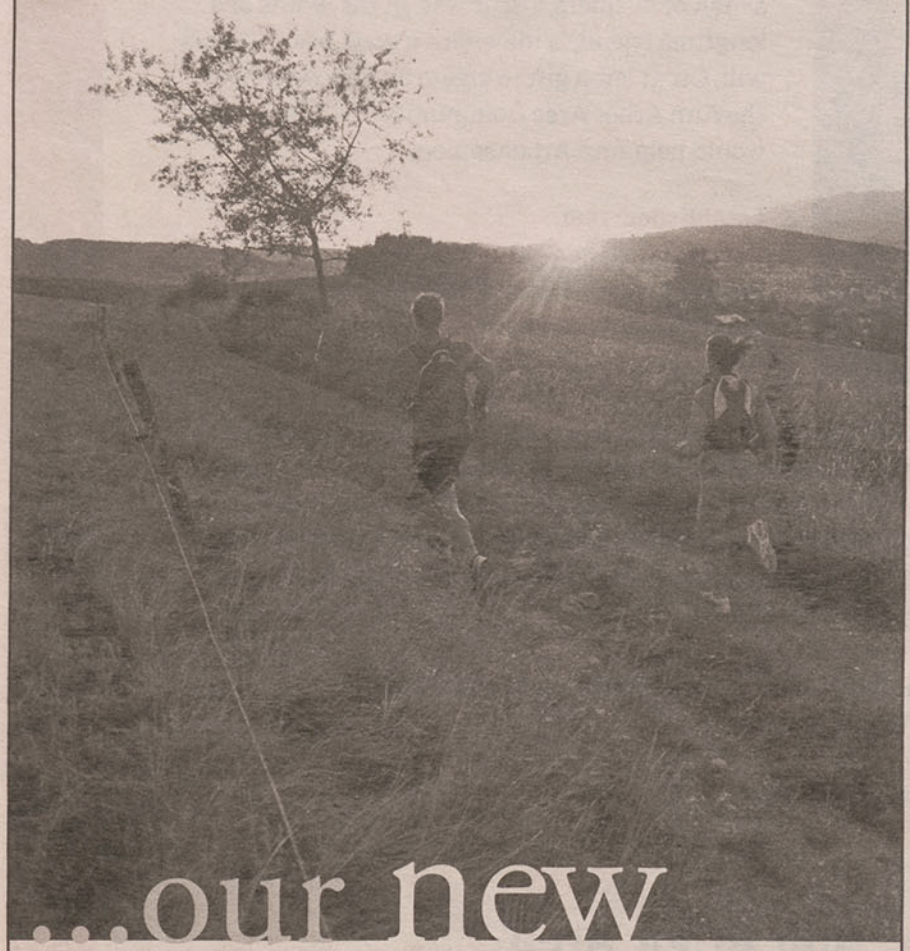

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friendsofwildlife.net for phone numbers of animal rehabilitators.)

The pond across from Target is a popular nesting place—and trouble spot. "Another year, same place, I got a frantic call from friends who were there," Sue emails. "A mom duck and her babies [were] running around in and out of the cars.

"I went out because my friends were so upset. I had a net in my car, as well as a big plastic tote and I was extremely lucky to grab the mother, the babies stayed with her and I carried them all to the pond. That was total luck and not recommended!!"

calls & letters

A team and a field

Observer assistant editor Michael Betzold emailed to correct an error in our April "Then & Now." We'd headlined the article—about a mysterious scrapbook clipping showing a Detroit Tigers team on the U-M's Ferry Field—"The American League in Ann Arbor."

Betzold—who's written extensively on the history of the Tigers but did *not* edit that piece—pointed out that the presence of an American League team was not the same as the presence of the league itself. For the headline to be accurate, he explained, the Tigers would have to have played another American League team in a regular-season game here. In the early 20th century the team did play Sunday league games at Burns Park to avoid Detroit's blue laws, he added, but it wasn't Burns Park in Ann Arbor—it was a diamond on Dix which, at the time, was just beyond the Detroit city limits. As the article noted, the Tigers' opponent at Ferry Field was almost certainly the University of Michigan baseball team.

Betzold also corrected the assertion that the Tigers' home at the time, "Bennett Field … stood approximately where Tiger Stadium would be built," noting that Bennett *Park* "stood EXACTLY where Navin Field [later Tiger Stadium] would be built, at Michigan and Trumbull; home plate was in a different corner but it was on the same property."

Margaret Carney

"I thought the article about the Dinnerware Museum was captivating," its founder emailed, "but my surname is CARNEY." Our apologies for misspelling it in our April Inside Ann Arbor article on the museum.

Unemployment rates

Another Inside Ann Arbor mistakenly said that Washtenaw County's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in January. That was December's rate; in January, unemployment rose to 5.3 percent—a reminder that when it comes to jobs, the economic recovery is still ragged.

Grese, not Gray

Because of an editing error, our April feature on Ann Arbor's trees misattributed a quote. It was Bob Grese, not Kerry Gray, who urged the city to regulate the types of trees planted in new developments and praised the partnership between the Nature Conservancy and Meijer to remove invasive species from the store's nurseries.

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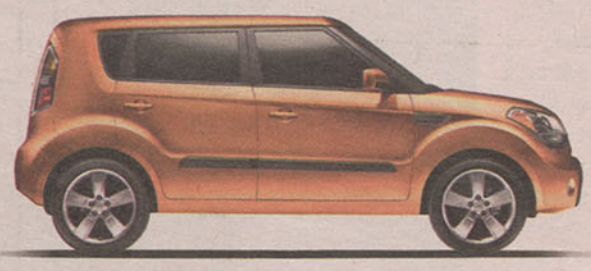

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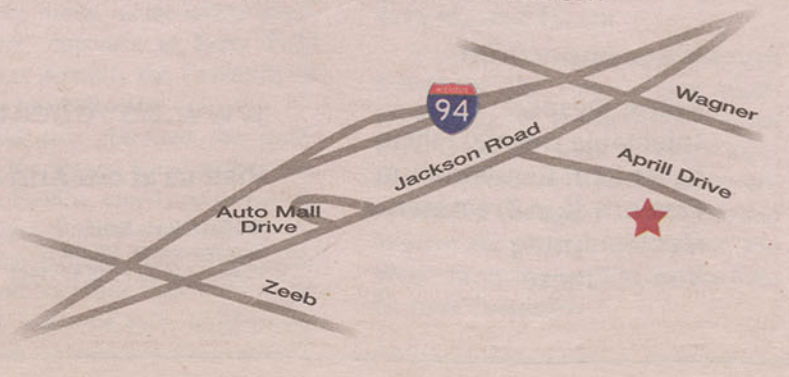
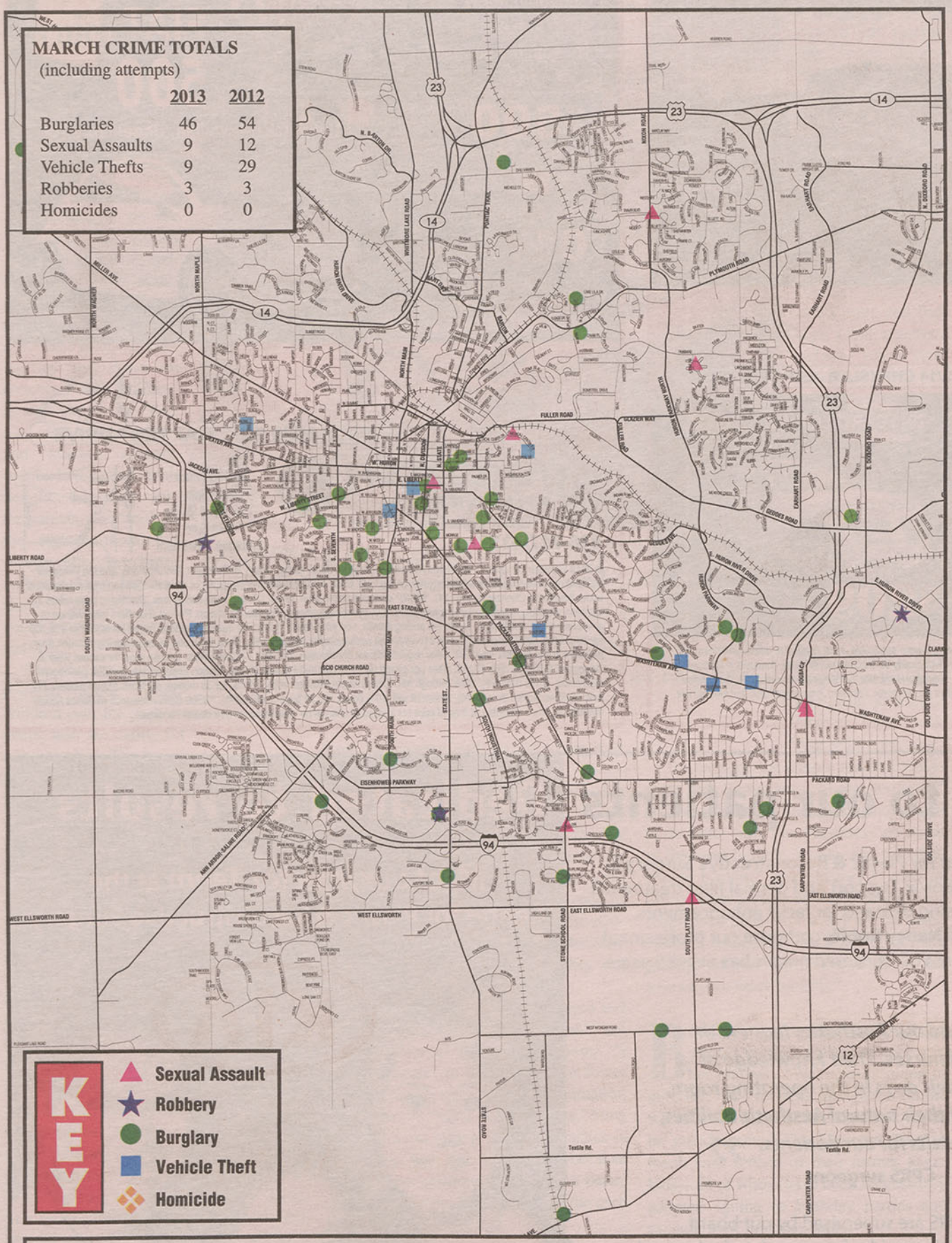


CrimeMap

MARCH CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)

	2013	2012
Burglaries	46	54
Sexual Assaults	9	12
Vehicle Thefts	9	29
Robberies	3	3
Homicides	0	0



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **March 2013.** Placement is approximate.

The Ann Arbor and Pittsfield departments have moved to a centralized record-keeping system run by crimemapping.com. As a result, they no longer are able to distinguish crimes from attempts, or sexual assaults by acquaintances from assaults by strangers.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **944–1238 in Pittsfield.** If you have questions about a crime shown here, call **Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994–8775, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.),** the **U-M Department of Public Safety (763–1131),** or the **Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944–4911).**

The box at the top of the map compares the number of crimes reported in March 2013 and March 2012.

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Bernie and Marvel Mayotte

Fostering love

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The parents of eleven grown children, the Mayottes first became foster parents to look after a grandchild. They've since taken in about twenty foster kids, and now focus mostly on babies—Marvel says children have a much better chance at success if they receive the care they need at an early age.

A toddler is on the loose in Bernie and Marvel Mayotte's family room, weaving in and out among the toys and books that dot the floor, climbing up and down on couches, and pointing around the room. Bernie, age seventy-nine, and Marvel, seventy, watch her antics with delight. Licensed foster parents, they took in the eighteen-month-old shortly after her birth, and will keep her until she's adopted—which could be as soon as this summer.

The Mayottes, who've fostered about twenty children over the past ten years, also are caring for a teenage boy. The boy is fighting cancer and is currently hospitalized. A "Parent" badge is pinned to Bernie's shirt, and he's about to leave for a visit. "I'll sit with him," Bernie says. "Just so he knows he's not alone."

The couple never thought about foster parenting until one of their daughters was struggling and they took in their six-year-old granddaughter; she ended up living with them until she turned eighteen. So that the child could qualify for certain benefits, they completed classes and became certified through Michigan's Department of Human Services (DHS). About a decade ago, they began taking in other kids. "We saw the need," says Bernie, who's been retired from his residential contracting business for fifteen years. "I don't want to play golf. We want to do this."

But it hasn't always been easy. Their first foster child—a six-year-old girl—hit Marvel hard enough to leave bruises, and the girl barely slept because she'd never had a bedtime routine. Soon they relinquished her. "I cried and cried," Marvel says. "I felt like such a failure. But she had such deep-seated things she was dealing with. She needed an expert."

Because many kids in foster care come from dysfunctional backgrounds—addiction, abuse, neglect, abandonment—behaviors such as bedwetting, hoarding food, and sleeping problems aren't uncommon. "Many have never sat at a table for dinner—it all has to be learned from the ground level," says Marvel, recalling one child who snatched a loaf of bread from the counter and ran off to eat it in hiding.

"We teach them the basic things. It's repetition, repetition, repetition," says Marvel. Bernie describes it as sharing "good people traits"—how to be polite, go out in public, and have a routine. "We have the time and can offer the consistency to do this," he says. Marvel attends the children's court hearings to better understand their family situations. Mostly, they see themselves as a "stepping-stone."

"We'd like to see families reunited and rehabilitated," says Bernie. If that's not possible, Marvel says, she's become "a great advocate" to make sure their foster kids are placed for adoption in a situation where they'll "excel, not just exist." Now they focus on taking in mostly babies—once they had two newborns—because Marvel says children have a much better chance at success if they receive the care they need at a young age.

The Mayottes have been married thirty-seven years—the second marriage for both. Together, they have eleven children, twenty-two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. How they met, Marvel jokes, is "a very dirty story."

Bernie was excavating at his house on Ann Arbor's south side to make a larger basement. He was divorced and raising eight kids. "I had all this dirt, and someone said, 'Why are you hauling this away? There's a lady in the neighborhood who could use it for her yard.' So I offered it to her."

Recently divorced and raising two young daughters, Marvel wasn't looking for a husband. "I just wanted my freedom, but he wouldn't leave me alone!" What hooked her, she says, was his ability as a dancer. They combined families under Bernie's roof and had one child together, a son, who's now thirty-six.

"I guess I was out of my mind when I did it," Marvel says of raising eleven kids. "It was a big transition." She did the kitchen work, but the kids did their own laundry and slept in bunk beds in the four-bedroom house. Now grown, they live "coast to coast and north to south," Marvel says, with four still in the area.

By the time the couple reached retirement age, Bernie says, "it was too quiet" around the house, one reason they chose to do foster care. The Mayottes "are some of the most humble, giving, and unselfish people I know," says Gregory Pordon of DHS. Foster parents of young children are reimbursed about $17 a day by the state. "This is something you don't do for the money," Marvel says. "You do it for the love in your heart for kids."

Bernie gets up from the couch to warm a bottle for the toddler and put her in her playpen. "We're really going to miss her," Marvel says, though the couple who hope to adopt her are "going to let us be grandparents." The Mayottes keep in touch with several of their former foster kids—all of whom have been successfully adopted—going to birthday parties and exchanging Christmas cards.

The Mayottes say they plan to continue foster parenting as long as they're healthy and mobile. As kids move to new homes, they sometimes experience a short break with no kids at the house. When that happens, Marvel says, "Bernie will say, 'Gee, do you think we should call?' " DHS about getting another child.

With 200 kids in foster care in the county, the Mayottes are eager to recruit more foster parents. "If you've got room and your heart is open, let them in," Marvel says. "You'll get so much more out of it than you could ever imagine."

—Shelley Daily

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Failure to Communicate

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Rose Bellanca shakes up WCC.

by James Leonard

The recession was a roller-coaster ride for Washtenaw Community College. Income from local property taxes shrank by $9 million between 2008 and 2012, lopping nearly 10 percent off this year's $95 million budget. As laid-off workers signed up for retraining, enrollment rose at a record pace—only to fall just as fast when funding dwindled and people found new jobs. And in the past six months, the college has lost two vice presidents: VP of finance Steve Hardy, who left in November, and VP for instruction Stuart Blacklaw, who was fired in March.

Many in the school's faculty are appalled at the departures—and at odds with Rose Bellanca, who became the college's fourth president in September 2011. "I used to love coming to work," says history professor and faculty union president Dave Fitzpatrick. "But that's changed now. I have no confidence in the president, and, more importantly, the president has no confidence in me." Carrie Krantz, English department chair and spokesperson for the twenty-five department chairs, agrees. "I love WCC. I endowed a scholarship here, and what's happening now is breaking my heart."

Just what's happening now isn't easy to understand. Hardy and Blacklaw said nothing when they left and have declined interview requests, Blacklaw noting he'd signed a non-disparagement agreement. And the faculty members the Observer interviewed say communicating with President Bellanca has often been difficult and at times impossible.

"I'm the chief negotiator for the union," says Fitzpatrick, "and we have monthly meetings with the president. [With previous president] Larry [Whitworth], we'd get on his calendar quickly, and when we raised issues at the meetings, he was always about problem solving. By contrast, when we tried last August to set up a meeting with [Bellanca] for September, we were told that there was not a single day in September or October she could meet. Only in November could we get a day with her.

"And in those meetings, it was never about problem solving but about affixing blame, usually to Stuart [Blacklaw]," Fitzpatrick continues. "[Bellanca would] start to answer a question, and then she'd say to Stuart in front of everybody, 'I'm not blaming you'—which was exactly what she was doing."

"Larry had a heavy-handed administration style," Krantz added in a March interview, "but he was fair and approachable, willing to listen, and willing to engage. There's none of that with the new president. Specifically, [the department chairs] requested a meeting with her in January, and she declined. I asked her for another general meeting after that and have heard nothing back."

The faculty went public with its frustration at a meeting of the college's board of trustees on March 26. Saying he spoke as "a representative of a unified faculty," David Wooten, a member of the biology department, addressed the trustees—and a standing-room-only crowd of supporters. Wooten acknowledged that "it became apparent early on that President Bellanca and former VP Stuart Blacklaw had a difficult working relationship.

"But," Wooten continued, "the fact that Stuart was fired 'effective immediately' when the entire faculty was in a meeting, the fact that he was in front of us not five minutes prior talking about his continued efforts for faculty support, the fact that he was not given the opportunity to leave his position respectfully and with prior notification, the fact that faculty were in a union meeting discussing how to communicate and collaborate better with this administration, while that same administration was firing our VP right under our noses without any communication to us, is beyond ironic."

Then Wooten asked, "If there are any faculty members here that share these thoughts, please show their support by raising their hand." The response was virtually unanimous—about fifty hands went up. To underline the point, the faculty took out a full-page ad the next week in the *Washtenaw Voice*, the campus newspaper, announcing a scholarship in the name of Stuart Blacklaw—the vice president Bellanca had just fired.

"[T]he fact that faculty were in a union meeting discussing how to communicate and collaborate better with this administration, while that same administration was firing our VP right under our noses without any communication to us, is beyond ironic," biologist David Wooten told the college's trustees in March.

Larry Whitworth ran WCC with a strong hand for thirteen years, and the college's trustees looked long and hard for his successor, even extending their deadline when they weren't satisfied with the first pool of candidates. Bellanca stood out, board chair Anne Williams recalls in a phone interview, because she "has a lot of chief operating officer experience, she's got a lot of experience in fundraising, she's got a lot of experience with strategic planning and working with the community in collaboration … She really focuses on the community college mission."

"They hired me to develop a strategic plan because there wasn't one," says the new president by phone from an out-of-area conference. "They also wanted me to work with the external community, to meet with local heads of industry and business so our students can meet their needs, and with our local K–12 partners to get more students. The last president didn't believe in K–12 partnerships."

Whitworth, says trustee Richard Landau, "refocused our curriculum on career paths rather than on discrete departments" and "created a strong infrastructure" with building projects that included a new library and a fitness center. "What we as trustees were looking for from the new president was to really leverage those accomplishments with the community and to put us in the position where the community was better aware of what the community college was and what it had to offer."

Bellanca says she's making progress on those goals. "We've accomplished making the strategic plan. That was done last year with 160 in-person interviews with faculty and staff, plus we sent a survey out to every employee to ask questions of them about the future. And so far I've met with 125 top administrators and CEOs at hospitals and IT companies and manufacturers" to discuss their needs.

What Bellanca calls "K–12 partnerships" are ways to recruit students to WCC before they finish high school. Though Whitworth might not have been interested in them, WCC has been doing that for more than fifteen years through the Washtenaw Technical Middle College, a charter high school where students earn both a high school diploma and some form of certification from WCC—a technical certificate or an associate's degree. Landau says that when he joined the board in 2001, WTMC had about 300 students; that's grown to the point that "at our most recent board meeting, we approved an enrollment of 450."

But Landau is most interested in "dual enrollment"—connecting students to WCC while still in their local high school. Working "principally with Willow Run and Ypsilanti consolidated districts," Landau says, "we have charged Dr. Bellanca … to reach out to those constituencies in the community that have not necessarily had access to a college education, to be able to make [WCC's] resources available to high school students so they see a path beyond high school." The hope, Landau says, is to expand the horizons of students in poor districts while building the college's enrollment in the long term.

In the short term, though, enrollment continues to fall: WCC's head count rose more than 10 percent during the recession, from 20,796 in 2007–2008 to 23,206 in 2009–2010—only to fall right back to 20,860 in 2011–2012.

This year's enrollment won't be final till spring term starts. But in the fall and winter terms, students took about 5 per-

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Failure to Communicate

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"I used to love coming to work," says history professor and faculty union president Dave Fitzpatrick. "But that's changed now. I have no confidence in the president, and, more importantly, the president has no confidence in me."

cent fewer credit hours than expected. That cost the college about $1.6 million in tuition and fees, which was by far the biggest contributor to a revenue shortfall of $1.9 million that was addressed in a mid-year budget adjustment.

Landau points out that there's nothing unusual about needing to tweak the budget as the academic year unfolds. And controller Lynn Martin emails that "modest increases [in tuition rates] each year have allowed us to adjust our budget." Though individually modest, those increases raised tuition per credit hour from $73 to $89 over the past four years—a total of 22 percent. Tax revenue also is slowly increasing as the local housing market recovers.

The February budget adjustment more than offset the lost revenue with $3.5 million in spending cuts. But since most of those savings came from leaving teaching positions unfilled, that did nothing to improve the faculty's frame of mind.

Besides increasing enrollment, Bellanca is looking for new sources of funding. One success she points to is a $2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. WCC will use the money to make sure its information technology curriculum meets the needs of local and regional businesses. In addition, the president says, "we have partnered with five entrepreneurs who're helping us by looking for different ways to bring in revenue."

Asked why VP of finance Hardy left, Bellanca replies: "That was his choice, and I was very disappointed that happened." As to why Blacklaw was fired, she will say only: "It's all in the FOIA the *Voice* did of his last evaluation. His evaluation was very clear about what he needed to do, and he knew he was expected to work towards those goals. That never happened."

As reported in the *Voice,* Blacklaw's last review by Whitworth praised his "exceptional job this past year at developing a positive, productive working relationship with faculty, department chairs and deans." Bellanca's review of Blacklaw, in contrast, implied that the vice president was *too* supportive of the faculty. High on the list of goals she says Blacklaw failed to meet was the requirement that he "Visibly support the college president in communications with faculty and staff."

In his response to the review, Blacklaw described himself as a "servant-leader … the only effective style of leadership for a group of individuals [faculty members] who, through tenure or contract, cannot easily be removed. One who inherits a protected workforce cannot move an organization through intimidation."

Bellanca's relationship with the faculty was so frosty that after the March trustees meeting, union president Fitzpatrick said that a faculty vote of no confidence in Bellanca was "a real possibility." The only thing holding them back, he said, was "the faculty's concern that, by bringing it to the public, it could hurt the college's reputation." At the time, department chairs

spokesperson Krantz predicted that the situation at the college "will get uglier before it gets better. The majority of the faculty would vote 'no confidence,' not 100 percent but the majority."

Rick Landau, an attorney, notes that neither Bellanca or the trustees can "comment on any particulars with regard to the recent developments with the vice president for finance or the vice president for instruction." That said, though, he adds, "I can tell you those matters were closely monitored by the board, and the board fully supported the president in her decisions with regard to those particular positions."

Landau says a vote of no confidence would be "counterproductive." He adds that he thinks the faculty "have much more trust in our board and in our executive leadership team than to resort to that kind of theatrical gesture." And he also suggests that the faculty's unhappiness may reflect the frustration felt by organized labor at new anti-union laws. "I don't think there's a member of this board who agrees with what the legislature's done with regard to right-to-work," he volunteers.

Fitzpatrick says right-to-work isn't the problem—it's Bellanca's attitude. And even Landau concedes that the relationship may have been damaged. "We look forward to President Bellanca rectifying whatever issues she has with communications with the faculty," he says. "We have directed her to take such steps as are necessary to improve that atmosphere, [and] we have faith that it will improve."

Interviewed in early April, Bellanca made it clear she's heard that message. Asked about the faculty's complaints about her failure to communicate, she replied, "Honestly, I could have done better. When we talked about strategies, dialogue never occurred, and it should have occurred. That's my responsibility. I hope we can get past that, to say, 'OK, this happened, but let's not make it happen again.' "

On the faculty's dramatic appearance at the trustees' meeting, the president is equally blunt. "Maybe they felt they needed to do something big to get my attention, and maybe they did. But I got it; I understand." To prove she means it, Bellanca said she plans to "meet with the department chairs, and keep that up until a new VP of instruction is in place."

Carrie Krantz confirms that for the first time, Bellanca attended a meeting of the department chairs in mid-month. "She made an excellent presentation with promise of improved communication and collaboration," Krantz emails. "Only time will tell to see if there are significant improvements."

Bellanca thinks a vote of no confidence by the faculty is unnecessary: "They've already voiced their opinion, and [a vote would] be like knocking me over the head with a sledgehammer. But I respect them, they're a great faculty and good people, and if that's what they feel they need to do, then that's what they need to do.

"But it's my job to move the college forward, and while I respect them, I get it. Now, can we move the college forward?" ■

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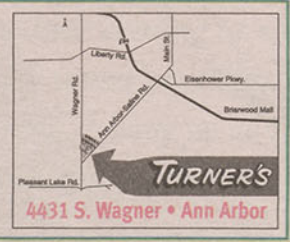

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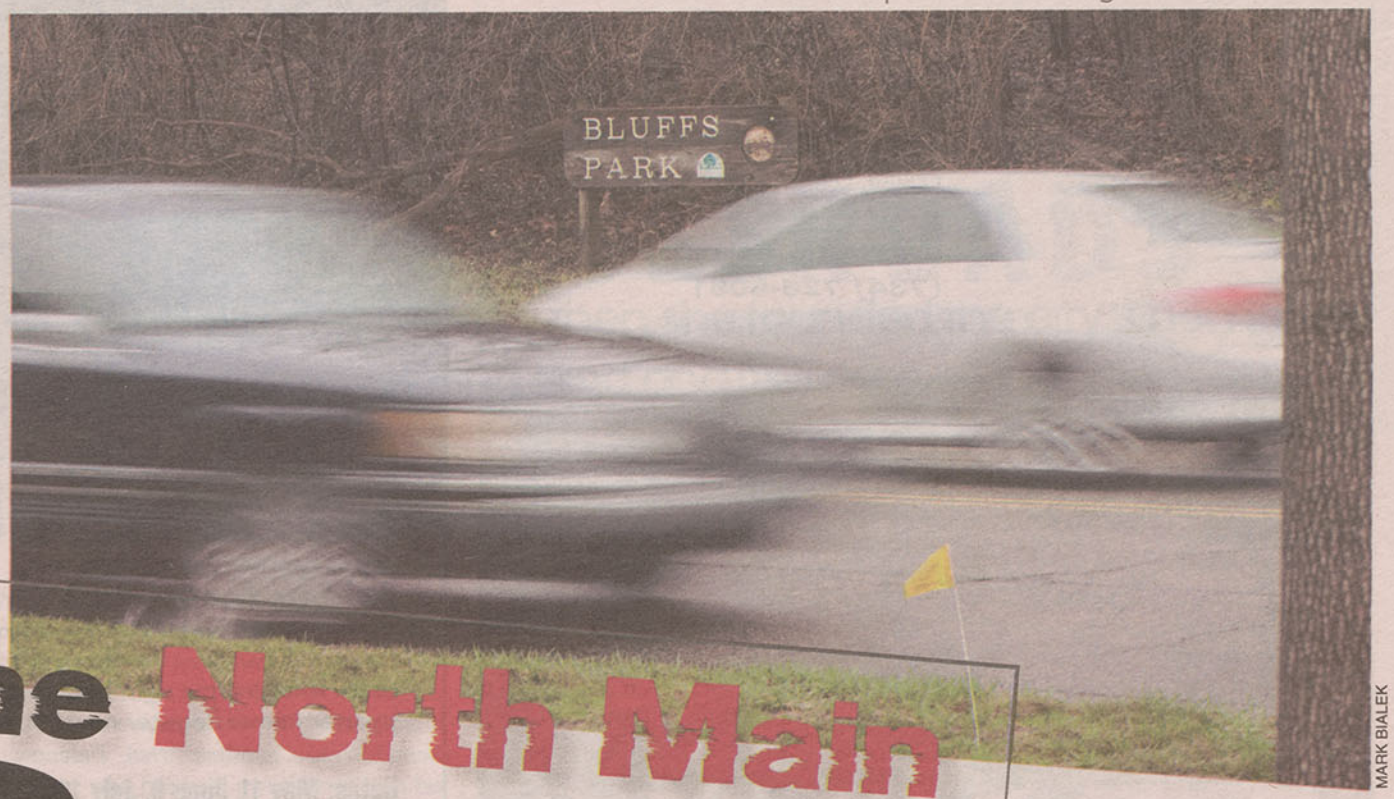

MARK BIALEK

The North Main Puzzle

Roads, runners, and the Walk of Death

by Steve Gilzow

On a sunny Wednesday morning in late March, a friend and I set out to explore the Bluffs Nature Area. The city parks website gives 1099 N. Main as the Bluffs' address and includes a link to a park map. The map shows a little T-shaped area labeled "Parking Lot" almost opposite Lake Shore Drive. We were driving north on Main Street, keeping our eyes peeled for that parking lot. The cars behind us in this forty-five-mph zone were doing at least fifty, ramping up for their merge with M-14. On our first pass, we missed it.

"I saw a sign, but it didn't say Bluffs."

"All I saw was Hawkins Auto Body shop."

Turning around and heading south, we missed it again. This time we saw a weathered wood sign that said "Bluffs Park" on the south side of the body shop. Problem was, there was no driveway next to it.

On our third pass, we slowed down—infuriating the driver behind us since this *is* the fast lane—took a chance, and turned in a rutted dirt driveway just *north* of Hawkins. We pulled up to a split-rail fence just before the driveway made a quick right into a private home. No signs confirmed we were at Bluffs Park, but the fence seemed like something the city might put in a park—and there was a trail heading up the ridge.

Hoping we were in the right place, we hiked up the steep path. It turned out to be one of the trails shown on the map—and, as we climbed, we were rewarded with spectacular views of Argo Pond.

That experience—being pushed along by speeding drivers while trying to find hidden parkland treasures—sums up one of the issues confronting the city's North Main–Huron River Corridor Vision Task Force. Later, when my friend and I attempted to cross North Main on foot, we experienced one of the other major issues.

"I call it the Walk of Death," says David Santacroce, who chairs the task force. "On foot, forget it. It's perilous. There's no good way to walk down Main Street and get into Bluffs Park. When our task force did its walking tour we saw someone almost get clipped."

The task force has been meeting since last summer, charged with providing city council with ideas for enhancing pedestrian and bike access from downtown to riverside parks, easing traffic congestion at Main and Depot streets, and recommending uses for the MichCon property on Broadway. It has already recommended turning half of the city's former maintenance yard at 721 N. Main into a park.

For some longtime commercial residents of North Main, the task force is déjà vu all over again.

Waldemar Alfred Paul John—better known as WAP John—has been at 1200 N. Main with his sign-making and graphic design business, Grafaktri, long enough to remember the 1988 task force, headed by local designer Howard Deardorff. John relishes being an evolving, cutting-edge graphics designer in a "divey" part of town. He has fond memories of daily encounters with the Lansky brothers, whose junkyard is now the NEW Center. These visits served up treasures such as "a spare wheel for a moon buggy—still in its original box!"

While John is receptive to the task force's recommendations, he won't devote much of his own time to its work. "We've done this before," he explains. "There is, in existence, a whole plan for this area … They spent a ton of money, it went over a long period of time, I went to all the meetings." But nothing much came of it.

"I've been ... trying to get people to the parks virtually my entire career," says parks planner Amy Kuras.

The mission of the 1988 task force and the 2013 task force are strikingly similar. So are the barriers to making changes.

The biggest obstacle is that while the city owns much of the property along North Main, access is controlled by others. The street itself is a Michigan Department of Transportation business route. The city can make suggestions, but ultimately it is MDOT which decides whether the road will be widened, the lanes reconfigured, sidewalks put in, or pedestrian crosswalks established. MDOT also recently took ownership of the former Norfolk & Southern / Amtrak rail line that runs between North Main and the river.

The railroad is a barrier between Main and Bandemer Park. There is just one legal crossing, at Lake Shore Drive. If MDOT goes ahead with plans for high-speed trains, a fence may be erected along the track here and a gate placed at the crossing.

The main pedestrian crossing from North Main into Bandemer Park is illegal: a well-worn footpath connecting the trail around Argo Dam with the parking lot of a building owned by local developer Peter Allen. Allen's son, Douglas, manages the family's five office buildings on North Main. "You'll get 200 people making the crossing here on a nice Saturday," Doug says. "Is it dangerous? Trains are going rather slow here, but we need a legal and safe crossing. End of story."

"I've been working on the problem of the railroads and trying to get people to the parks virtually my entire career," says parks planner Amy Kuras, who's been with the city for twenty-three years. "We've known forever that we needed a crossing."

The large windows in Doug Allen's office at 944 N. Main overlook the tracks and the river. Just seven years old when the 1988 task force made its report, Doug is unburdened by memories of that effort; he says that he or his father has been to "just about every meeting" of the current task force. His favorite proposal is for a pedestrian tunnel from Depot Street under the railroad berm. He points out that in the event of heavy rain it would also allow floodwater to get to the river—hopefully without people in the tunnel at the time.

As Doug and I stood behind his building, a trio of runners—two men and a woman—trotted through his parking lot and took the heavily beaten path across the railroad tracks, past the "No Trespassing" sign, and onto the paved path of Bandemer Park. The woman looked familiar …

"There's Amy Kuras right now!" said Doug.

"I'm busted," Kuras admitted by phone a few days later. She and her lunchtime running group—which, Doug told me, includes some other high-profile scofflaws—sometimes take the Broadway bridges, but, like everyone else, often can't resist the illegal crossing.

Kuras says the last time she developed a plan for a crossing, it was shot down as too expensive. "But now I'm more hopeful that something may happen … I think we may finally be at the point where people say, even if it's millions of dollars, we have to do it."

Then she backpedals. "I don't know if it will be before I [retire]," she says. "I don't want to be too optimistic!" ■

The next North Main Task Force public meetings are May 22 and June 12, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main St.

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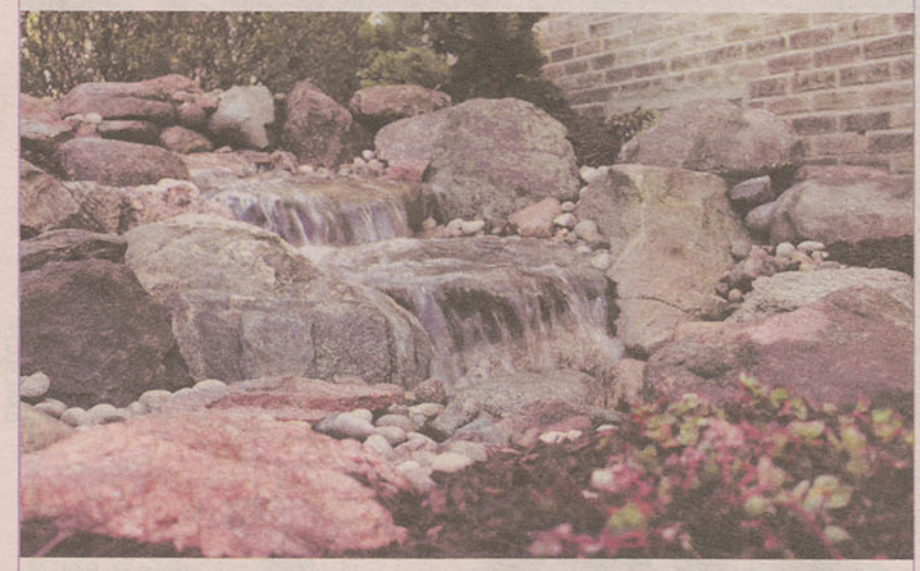

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GROUNDCOVER AT THE CROSSROADS

Susan Beckett changed lives when she founded the city's homeless newspaper. But she's getting tired and its future is uncertain.

by Eve Silberman

Greg Owens is a *Groundcover* success story.

For six months, he stood outside the People's Food Co-op hawking copies of the $1 street paper that advocates for the homeless. A skinny six-foot-two West Virginian, with a drawl as soothing as warm grits, he had a gap-toothed smile for everyone who passed by and an endearing habit of ending sentences with "I'm blessed." He freely told customers he had done time for DUI and was on a tether—and even asked whether they'd like to see the tether. Some did.

Though Owens mostly sold in front of the co-op—a coveted location awarded to the paper's most successful vendors—he also hawked *Groundcover* at a local church before services. Sales were good there, too. One day, working from dawn to dusk, he sold 1,600 papers, earning at least 75¢ for each one. (The paper costs $1 and vendors aren't allowed to ask for more, but they can accept tips if they're offered.) And then, in February, Owens disappeared. His probation over, he returned to West Virginia, where his brother hired him as a long-haul trucker.

Reached by phone, Owens said that thanks to *Groundcover* he made enough (he declined to say how much) to put down a deposit for his own semi. "People in Ann Arbor are generous," he says. "I'm blessed."

To sell *Groundcover*, vendors must be either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their housing. Most of the two-dozen or so regulars earn far less than Owens, averaging between $75 and $200 a month. Yet even those modest earnings have helped at least half a dozen vendors get off the streets or out of the Delonis Center and into rented rooms or apartments.

Rissa Haynes' friendliness and warm smile made her one of *Groundcover*'s most popular salespeople. With health difficulties that caused her to rely first on a cane and then a walker, she has recently cut back on her selling. But when she worked regularly, Haynes says, she would usually pull in at least $160 a month. "It made quite a difference," she says, explaining that her "income" without *Groundcover* relies on disability payments—which after other expenses leave her only about $14 a month for food.

"If it weren't for *Groundcover,* I wouldn't have nothing," says Lonnie Baker, who has held a variety of jobs but says that deteriorating vision now makes it difficult to find work. The money he earns selling *Groundcover* helped him move off the streets and rent a room in a friend's house. Moreover, "It gave me an incentive, a purpose."

These stories buoy *Groundcover* founder and publisher Susan Beckett, fifty-nine. Earnings aside, she says, the vendors gain sales skills and a sense of community from weekly meetings at the Bethlehem United Church of Christ. The handful who choose to write for *Groundcover* also get the thrill of seeing their work published.

Editor Lee Alexander and associate editor Andrew Nixon both get stipends, but *Groundcover* stays alive through the efforts of about 100 volunteers. During four-hour weekly shifts at Bethlehem church, they train prospective vendors, make name tags, and frequently, Beckett says, "make somebody a cup of coffee and let them vent."

Beckett herself was *Groundcover*'s first volunteer: she conceived of the paper, got it off the ground, and remains its driving force. But now Beckett wants to pass on the torch: she's tired, and the nonprofit is getting too large to continue as what's essentially a one-woman show. "We've passed the start-up phase," says the former teacher and computer programmer. "We're moving into a more established, professional stage."

Groundcover, she says, has tripled its size and ad revenue every year since it started publication in July 2010. Last November, in what Beckett describes as "an average good month," the paper took in about $1,500 in sales and almost $1,800 in ads from local businesses and churches.

BECKETT CONCEIVED OF THE PAPER, GOT IT OFF THE GROUND, AND REMAINS ITS DRIVING FORCE. BUT NOW SHE WANTS TO PASS ON THE TORCH.

"When our circulation was about 2,500 [copies a month], we were losing money," Beckett says. "When we got to 3,000, we were breaking even. Now that circulation is more than 5,000, we've been able to plow back the profit into savings." Beckett hopes to soon hire a part-time business manager—allowing her to cut back from her intense volunteer stewardship of *Groundcover.* "If I were to drop dead tomorrow," she says, "there are way too many loose ends [for someone else to pick up] … There's too much concentrated in just me."

But can the street paper survive without the full-time involvement of its most passionate advocate? Beckett believes it can, with a careful transition and the hiring of devoted employees.

Still, she worries. It would be different, she explains, if the paper had folded after one or two issues, because "nobody was dependent on it at that point … now there are lots of people whose lives and housing are dependent on Groundcover."

"I feel a lot of responsibility and trepidation about messing that up."

Of medium height, her brown hair cut short, Beckett has a teacher's calm authority. Her commitment to social justice began early. She grew up in New Jersey—her father an engineer, her mother one of the first wave of computer programmers—but took to heart their stories of childhood struggles. Her mother's family fought to stay afloat during the Depression, and her father's family was persecuted in Nazi Germany before fleeing in the late 1930s, "the last time Jews could still get out."

Beckett attended the U-M but dropped out just before graduation—"the Peter Pan syndrome," she says ruefully. She worked as a computer programmer and eventually married John Beckett, who now owns the software company Retail Velocity; their daughter and son are both grown and living out of state.

Beckett eventually returned to the U-M to earn an education degree but was unable to land a permanent job; she ended up doing long-term subbing in elementary schools. Her social passion found an outlet in the Washington, D.C.–based RESULTS, a nonprofit advocacy group that, she says, is "seeking to push the political will to end poverty."

Her life took its latest turn in 2009 when she visited her daughter in Seattle. Outside a small coffee shop she saw a homeless vendor calling out, "Real Change! Real Change!" Intrigued, Beckett bought a copy of the *Real Change News*—and took the idea home.

At first, friends convinced her that Ann Arbor was too small to support a homeless paper. But then, at a February meeting of housing activists, several people promised to support it. In July 2010, after months of planning and talking to homeless people and their advocates, the first issue of *Groundcover* appeared. A Toledo home-

COURTESY GROUNDCOVER

Greg Owens earned enough selling *Groundcover* to put down a deposit on his own semi.

"PEOPLE IN ANN ARBOR ARE GENEROUS," HE SAYS. "I'M BLESSED."

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GROUNDCOVER AT THE CROSSROADS

less advocacy group, "1Matters," covered the $700 printer's bill.

Subtitled "News and Solutions from the Ground Up," *Groundcover* carries stories about homelessness in every issue, often local people's stories about their struggles with alcoholism, illness, and poverty. The paper has also covered some local controversies like the closing of Camp Take Notice, the homeless encampment on Wagner Road.

Yet *Groundcover*'s overall tone is hopeful and upbeat. April's cover story described how a group of volunteers from Camp Take Notice repaired the trailer home of an ailing Ypsilanti woman. That issue also included an article on Fr. Jim McDougall's retirement as pastor of St. Francis of Assisi; news that the county health insurance program was, briefly, accepting new members; interviews with locals about their favorite poets; and a popular puzzles section.

According to editor Lee Alexander, though, the *Groundcover* story that created the biggest buzz was Beckett's own description of her struggle to post bail for a vendor who was arrested in Wayne County on an assault charge. Expecting a straightforward process, Beckett recalled, "in we walked, breezy and confident, toting our 10 $100 bills"—only to encounter a mire of error and confusion that delayed the woman's release for two months. The vendor is now free and back selling *Groundcover,* but, Beckett writes, her own "middle-class expectations of convenience, transparency, and fairness [in the justice system] were shattered."

On a Thursday night in March, about ten people show up for the weekly vendor meeting, most wearing blue *Groundcover* T-shirts donated by Elmo Morales. Today's theme: how to increase sales. A couple of people say they point out advertiser offers, such as the $1-off coupons from the People's Food Co-op (about 100 coupons are turned in every month, says a co-op employee). Others tell prospective customers about interesting stories in the issue, like the one about the woman who publicized inequity in America by handing out pieces of pie in Liberty Plaza. " 'Read about the pie lady!' " a vendor says, imagining the sales pitch. "That's a great idea!"

When some people drift into private conversations, the teacher in Beckett surfaces. "Let's try to keep on the subject of how we use articles to sell our papers," she reminds them. When a vendor bursts in, obviously agitated, Beckett takes her outside for a calming talk.

Beckett says her least favorite part of the job is suspending vendors who break rules, like taking another person's spot or drinking on the job. And ex-vendor Greg Owens thinks Beckett needs to be tougher. "She's awesome," he says, "but she's too soft." Not cracking down on vendors who sell while they're drunk, Owens says, "hurts the image of Groundcover."

"When I'm not sure, I tend to give the benefit of the doubt to the vendor," Beckett admits. But she doesn't turn a blind eye to violations: "I just today ordered alcohol [testing] strips."

Groundcover's continued growth—Beckett thinks monthly circulation might reach 8,000 this summer—is a credit to her tenacity and organizational skills. Alexander says that she's also "a very good diplomat." But while she sees herself always connected to *Groundcover* in some capacity, she also wants her life back. She'd like to visit her kids, see friends, and be free of those sixty-hour weeks just before publication.

A successor, she acknowledges, "will have to be the right person," someone with both business smarts and tremendous dedication. And he or she will find plenty of challenges. To support a paid staff, the paper will need "more vendors and more places to sell," says board member Veronica Sanitate.

Groundcover has expanded to Ypsilanti, where business is brisk, says Beckett. But Ypsilanti Township wants no part of

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Vendor Lonnie Baker says his deteriorating vision makes it hard to find regular work. The money he makes helped him move off the streets and rent a room in a friend's house.

the paper. Several large local stores, mostly chains, also have politely declined to permit vendors on their property.

"There's a lot of prejudice against the homeless," Beckett says, noting that businesses dislike hiring people with no permanent address. *Groundcover* vendors, like the homeless population at large, also include many people with addictions and/or criminal records. But, Beckett points out, "Part of what gets conflated is panhandling and homelessness. Many of the people who panhandle are not homeless.

"I've heard it's easier to panhandle than to sell Groundcover. But there's a dignity to selling Groundcover, a feeling of working for an income, as well as [the fact] that people are buying it."

"There go my favorite lady!" says a *Groundcover* vendor, waving at Beckett as he arrives at another Thursday meeting. Another veteran vendor, Miriam—she asked that her last name not be used—also enters in good spirits, announcing, "I'm through smoking!"

A woman introduces a newcomer, twenty-year-old Dillon Rogers. Rogers says he's from Waterford Township and moved to Ann Arbor to get help from Dawn Farm with his alcohol problem. "There wasn't a big enough support system in Waterford," he says. He's just sold his first copy of *Groundcover.*

Also on hand is Shelley, a lifelong Ann Arborite and a Pioneer High grad, slim, with pale blue eyes and a weary expression. Her last full-time job was answering phones at a local bank. Since being laid off in 2010, she's worked at a sub shop while cleaning offices at night. She got into selling *Groundcover* after meeting Rissa Haynes selling papers at a food pantry at Genesis, the shared synagogue/church building on Packard. Three months behind in her rent, Shelley decided to give *Groundcover* a try.

"It was scary," she says of her first few weeks on the streets, and she still takes it personally when people look away as they pass her. But the $200 or so she earns each month helps pay the bills. Her dream job, she says, would be to open her own business—a "roller rink!" she says, remembering how she loved roller-skating in high school. More realistically, an office job would look good.

The rewards of her work come, Beckett says, from "talking with the vendors when they're excited about an article they've written, or when they were able to help someone out"—she mentions Lonnie Baker, who helps frail customers cross the street—"or when they get keys to a place to stay." But does she ever wonder whether her all-consuming commitment is worth it? "At least once a month, I ask myself that."

While Beckett believes *Groundcover* can survive without her, others are less certain. One vendor slumped in a chair after a recent meeting, tired after hours of standing in the cold, scratches his head when asked if he could envision *Groundcover* under new management. "Groundcover without Susan?" he says. "I can't seem to wrap my arms around that." ■

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THE LAST ENGINEER

Riding on the U-M Railroad

by Daryl Hurst

My father passed away last year at the age of eighty-nine. By all measures, Russell Hurst lived a full and happy life. A member of the "Greatest Generation," he served bravely in WWII and then came home to marry the girl next door (literally) and raise a family. During the preparations for his memorial service and throughout the months of reflection that followed, I realized that one of my most cherished memories is of working with my father in the late 1950s on the now-defunct University of Michigan Railroad.

It was a responsibility we both took seriously. For my part, I had to brave cold, snowy weather to walk to my post and wait patiently for my turn to climb up into the cab of his locomotive. Once aboard, I would greet my dad and then give a tentative nod to the quiet man who doubled as flagman and switchman. As a four-year-old, mine was not a paid position, but my role was critical to making the workday more fun for these grown-ups. As soon as my dad lifted me up onto the well-worn leather engineer's seat and gave me permission to pull the throttle that made the massive engine lurch forward down the tracks, broad smiles broke out on our faces, and the three of us knew it would be a great run.

I think my dad and I both regretted that this railroad assignment was only a part-time gig. In the summer months, he was a general laborer for the masons in the university's Plant Operations. He would don his engineer's cap each fall when the heating season returned and even then only ran the train as needed. My own time on the railroad was limited to those preschool years when my older siblings were in elementary school and my mother had gone back into the workforce. My primary assignment was to spend my days with my Grandma Hakala, helping her take care of the aphasia patients who stayed in her large rooming house on the south side of East Huron St. near Glen Ave.

The house was actually owned by the university, and the men received treatment each day at the speech clinic located directly across the street at 1007 E. Huron. My grandma's place, along with a couple of other large houses, sat high up on the north edge of Fletcher Park (the front lawn of today's Power Center). The park had several large, old elm trees in the middle and a row of lilacs on the slope bordering Washington, which at the time continued on past Fletcher toward Observatory Dr.

I can vividly recall lounging in the private family room, watching Bozo the Clown on TV and staring out the large front window at the traffic and pedestrians on the busy street below while my grandma fed the men their breakfast. I was always impatient for the meal to be over on those special days when I knew that afterward I would meet my dad at the university powerhouse down the block.

The large brick edifice, built in 1915, was a city landmark from its beginning, with a towering smokestack reaching high into the sky. The facility was enlarged in 1924 and a second smokestack added. Naturally, I was most intrigued by the railroad tracks that ran along the west side of the building. They headed south past the end of the building, across a bridge over Washington, and almost to North University Ave., ending about 200 yards behind the old homeopathic hospital (today's North Hall).

To my young eyes, the rails along the side of the plant seemed perilously perched on an open grate of iron anchored in cement in a wavy sea of black coal. Equally precarious, but exciting to watch, was the gantry high above, where I could see a man in a tiny cab sliding back and forth on another iron rail. Using his dangling clam bucket, he would scoop up piles of loose coal and hoist them up and away to unseen funnels on the roof that fed the boilers inside. My young imagination raced at this sight, as it did when my dad would describe the steam tunnels that ran beneath Central Campus.

For safety, I always had to wait on the sidewalk until my dad pulled the train engine alongside. Then I climbed aboard to join him on his one-mile run to the other end of the spur, which serviced the powerhouse and food service operation across the street. In those days before OSHA rules and institutional guidelines, my dad could get away with letting me ride in the cab of the blue locomotive with the yellow "UM" on the side. Our mission: take empty hopper cars back down to the New York Central (previously Michigan Central) main line that ran along the valley on the south bank of the Huron River, and bring back cars full of coal.

As the flashing red light over Huron St. signaled our crossing, the flagman walked ahead of us, then jumped back up on the side ladder to ride until we neared the next intersection at Ann St. The thirty-five-ton gasoline-powered Plymouth switching engine we rode had been purchased as surplus from the U.S. Army in 1949, after the university dismantled its original electrified rail system. It had a twin that was parked on a siding alongside the old food service building (replaced by today's Biomedical Science Research Building). The university had purchased the second engine for parts, but I always imagined it was being readied for me to use when I grew up.

The old tracks angled through the western quarter of today's Ann/Catherine parking structures and ran right next to Angelo's restaurant, which had only recently opened at the time I was riding the rails.

As we prepared to cross Ann, my dad would let me yank on the overhead cord that made the whistle shriek, warning the automobiles that we were coming through. Our route would then continue along the east side of the Glen-Fuller curve, cutting behind several houses that faced Glen on our left and gliding amazingly close to many of the university buildings on our right. The old tracks angled through the western quarter of today's Ann/Catherine parking structures and ran right next to Angelo's restaurant, which had only recently opened at the time I was riding the rails. The popular coffee shop was already the regular hangout for my dad's morning break with the other men who worked the coal operation at the power plant.

After our third crossing, at Catherine, the tracks continued snug along the west side of the Victor Vaughn Building. The sidewalk along the east side of today's W. Medical Center Drive follows the former track bed, a tight passage at this point. I remember feeling like I could have touched the red bricks if my dad had let me lean out the cab's window. After that snug curve, it was another close shave by the northwest corner of the building trades and carpenter shop, then clear sailing down to the switchback that lay in the valley directly north of the university's Old Main hospital. This long, sloping grade cut behind the land now occupied by Med Sci III, II, and I and the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Today you have to turn right onto E. Medical Center Drive and then left on Nichols Drive to get down to where the U-M Railroad ended.

Back then, the track passed over a small concrete bridge that spanned a dirt utility road, then dead-ended on another trestle, an elevated setup that allowed the university to bring down hoppers of coal ash to dump off the side, likely to be used for winter road maintenance. It was easy for me to imagine the disaster of a runaway train flying through the timber blockade and off the end of the elevated track, but with my dad at the controls I always felt safe. Today the hospital's Survival Flight copters fly from pads near to where the old trestle and ash dump were located. Here we would leave our empty cars and pick up the full ones, all made possible by a set of sidings and a connecting track to the main line about thirty yards away.

Coal was likely supplied from Ohio and West Virginia, delivered to the sidings along Depot Street by the Ann Arbor Railroad. After the daily train from Detroit to Jackson went through, the coal cars could be moved farther east along the Michigan Central main track to the U-M siding. Here it was up to the large supply locomotive to do the heavy work of moving the C & O coal cars from their mainline tracks

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THE LAST ENGINEER

to ours. Leaving the consignment of full cars on the lower siding, it would come up the grade to couple to our empty ones, taking them back down to link up with the full cars. Pulling forward and then backing up our hill once again with this full load, the locomotive would leave the coal-laden cars for us and then head out again with the empties.

That's when our real work would begin. While the U-M Plymouth engine seemed large to me, it was tiny by most standards. We could take four to six empty cars down in one trip from the power plant, but the climb back up with a full hopper had to be done one car at a time. Apparently the women in the university's old maternity hospital used to report how much the overburdened engine backfired and wheezed. I had a much more romanticized image in my head of our locomotive as "The Little Engine That Could," simply repeating "I think I can, I think I can …" as we churned steadily up the hill. When snow and ice coated the rails, the crewman would throw down sand to gain traction.

Shortly after I had left my position as the railroad's unofficial mascot in order to begin kindergarten, the university purchased a much bigger eighty-ton diesel engine to improve efficiency and handle its expanding needs. My dad and his crew certainly liked it, and I remember riding it once or twice, but the modern style with the controls in the center didn't have the same feel to it. There was little of the magic that the smaller but more traditional cab-in-the-back locomotive evoked in a little boy's imagination. It was the look, feel, and sounds of that old Plymouth engine that were important aspects of the pretend storylines I carried in my mind.

For even after returning home to my grandma's after one or two morning runs with my dad back in those preschool days, my job was not finished. After lunch I would spend the whole afternoon perched on one end of the black wrought iron fence that ran along the upper sidewalk in front of the house, pretending the first segment was my own train locomotive and the sections of railings stretching before me were the coal cars I was transporting back and forth. Today I can still make that run in my mind, churning along to the click-clack rhythm and squeal of metal against metal as we round each bend.

Unfortunately, that memory is all that is left. By the end of the 1960s, the house had been torn down, the power plant had been converted to natural gas, and the university had abandoned its railroad. Subsequent building and paving projects have virtually obliterated the old rail bed.

Nearly half a century later, my father, the last engineer on the University of Michigan Railroad, is gone, too. Most people who worked with Russ Hurst in his

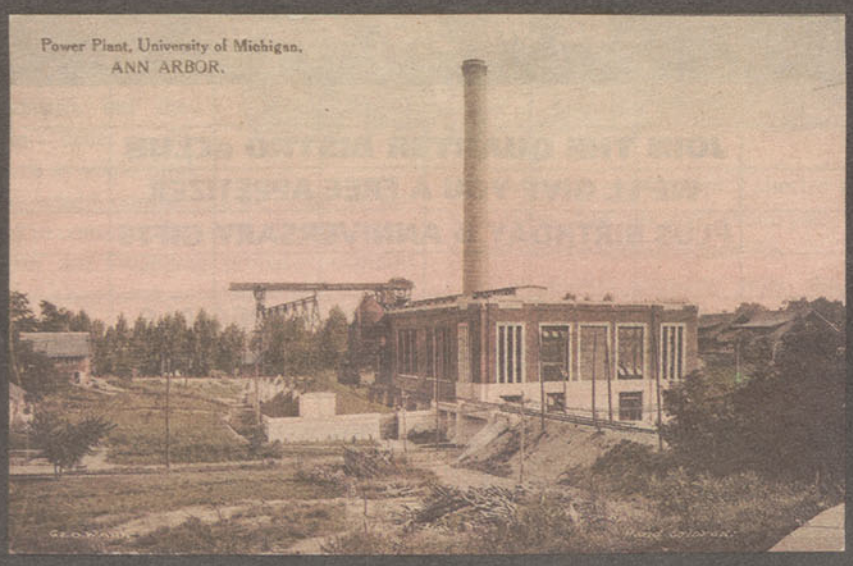
COURTESY DR. H. MARK HILDEBRANDT
BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY

later years at the university knew him as the head of the Moving and Trucking department. Many acquaintances recall his stories of flying on a B-24 bomber and being interned in Sweden after his plane was shot down. Family and friends recall him as a dedicated church member, a father to many exchange students, the "cruise director" trip planner, or the grandpa with the swimming pool in his backyard. The little kid in me, however, finds comfort in remembering my dad as a train engineer. It is a strong, clear, and warm memory of a loving father who, on the university railroad and in so many other ways, gave me the ride of a lifetime. ■

Daryl Hurst can be reached at darylhurst@comcast.net. He thanks Dr. H. Mark Hildebrandt, Rich Olszewski, Pam Gibb, and the Bentley Historical Library for their help in researching this article.

COURTESY DR. H. MARK HILDEBRANDT

COURTESY DR. H. MARK HILDEBRANDT



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(Above): ca. 1920: The railroad hauled coal to the U-M power plant on Huron. (Center) December 1955: Hurst's Plymouth engine upbound at the Ann St. crossing. (Top) December 1960. The Plymouth (left) with its much bigger replacement at the line's north end. Today the U-M's Survival Flight helicopters fly from a pad nearby.

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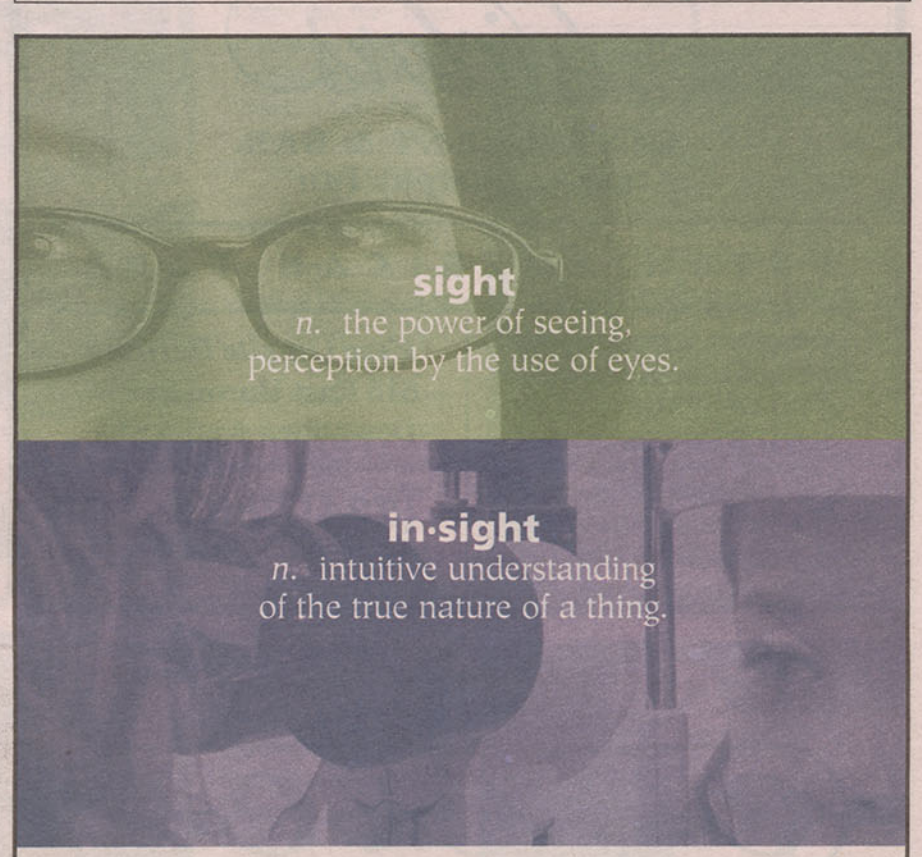

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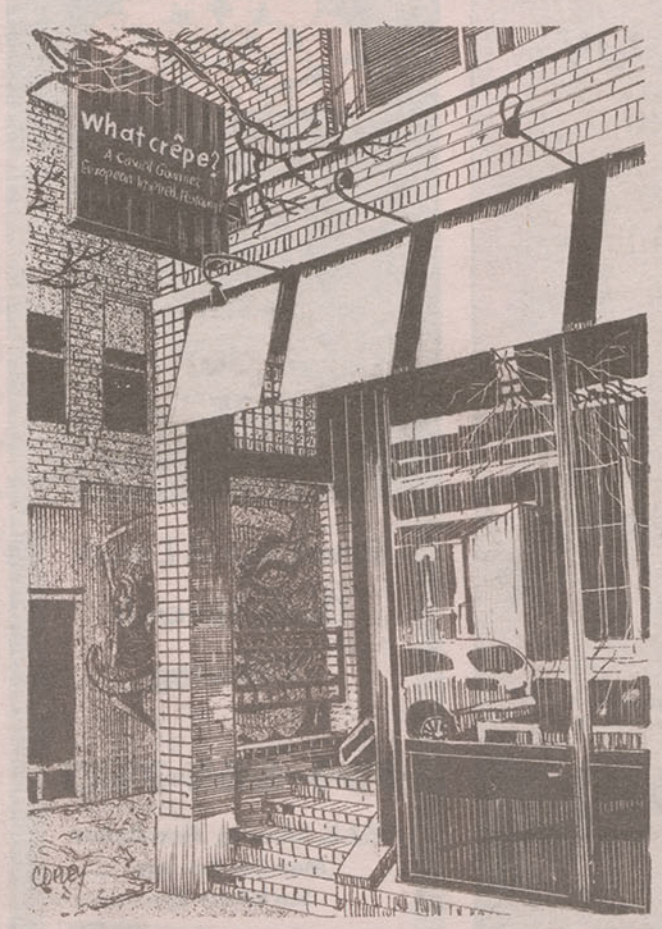
Batter Up

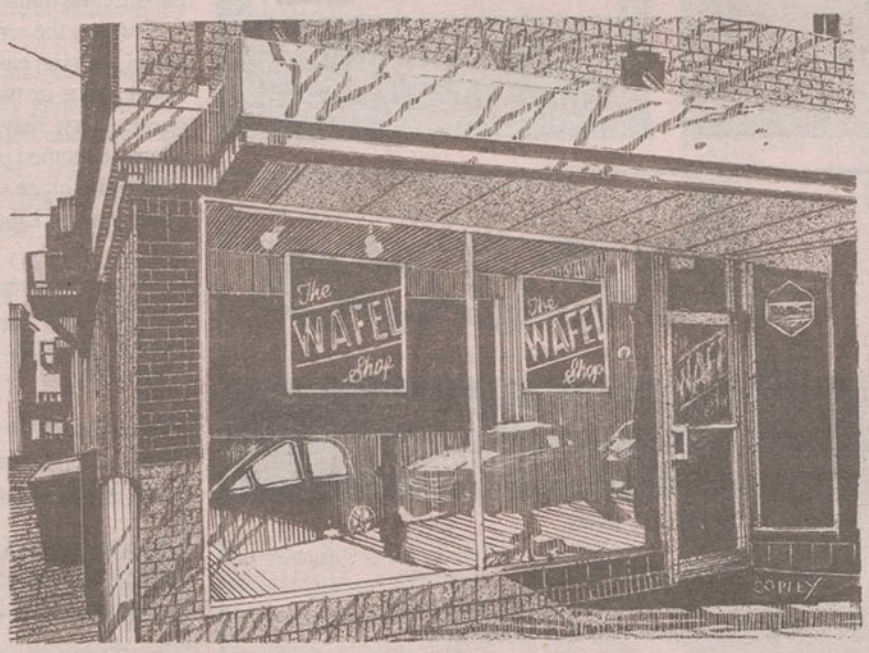
What Crepe? and the Wafel Shop

Liberty from Main to Fifth Ave. already offers cherry treats, chocolates, handmade ice cream cones, cupcakes, and fruity-plump muffins. In the early weeks of 2013, with the opening of What Crepe? and the Wafel Shop, it added two purveyors of batter-based confections.

Does this officially make the area Dessert Alley? Or Home of the Endless Brunch? How about we step back from a double-whammy sugar high and first explore the eclectic bistro What Crepe? And let's drop the question mark in the name so you can actually read these sentences—it's there, said one server, because it's what they ask their customers: what crepe do they want to order?



It's a big question: the menu features eighteen "savory favorites" and thirteen "sweet favorites." Happy meals of the grown-up variety can be made from many, from the veggie-friendly Mushroom Madness, packed with a variety of perfectly sauteed 'shrooms mellowed with truffle oil and Swiss cheese, to a hearty rib-eye steak option that leaves hungry folks content without making them work too hard to chew the tender strips of meat.



I liked both the Obvious (chicken, caramelized apples, spinach, feta, and pecans) and My Morning Jacket (ham, asparagus, Swiss cheese, and hollandaise), but they didn't taste as different as you'd think they would, considering they have no fillings in common. The style of crepe preparation and wrapping probably explains this. As one lunch companion said bluntly, "I didn't see a crepe in the place—I saw the crepe griddles in the kitchen behind the glass, but what were delivered were burritos." Meaning, our big meal crepes came wrapped up tight, then cut in half. The fillings are high quality, but the flavors tend to be overpowered by the doughy, slightly sweet crepe wraps.

You taste exactly how sweet the batter is if you order an appetizer of "crepe crispies," which look like pita chips but have vanilla wafer/animal cracker undertones. You can order them with sweet dips or in a savory fashion, drizzled with truffle oil and sprinkled with both shaved Parmesan and shredded cheddar—"overkill," a dining companion proclaimed. The flight of savory dips that accompanied the crispies, however, were popular: spicy chorizo sausage *queso*, mild smoked salmon pâté, and a light take on spinach artichoke.

Also notably pleasing were smooth chicken white bean soup (garnished with bacon and cheese) and fresh mixed baby greens salads. Note that three of the four salads (all but the tuna Niçoise) come with either fruit or candied nuts sweetening the mix. Our attempts to request omissions—once in salad, once in crepes—were not successful. A better tack might be to build your own; they'll add any of their many fillings, sauces, and toppings à la carte to a $6 crepe ($7 for gluten-free or vegan).

Dessert crepes are a big deal here. Unlike the dinner burritos, the massive Patriot—topped with bananas, blueberries, strawberries, Nutella, and both ice cream and whipped cream—is served flat, pizza style. Consider sharing it—or a Honey Bear, S'More, or Banana Exotique—if you have that sort of familiarity with your companion. Maybe one of you will want to order a drinkable dessert from the very sweet-sounding array of special cocktails. Cinnamon Old Fashion or Gummy-Bear Martini, anyone?

There's so much going on at What Crepe that they have to resort to teeny-tiny type to fit it all on the menu. Don't forget your reading glasses if you are a patron of a certain age. The menu, prices, and portions are the same at lunch, which can produce sticker shock—combos start at $11, topping out with that tender rib-eye and a garlic-Parmesan crusted salmon at $16.50.

Those prices include a casual chic aura, with dark plank siding letting whimsical chandeliers shine. Frilly gewgaws, rococo but empty picture frames, an endless loop of "Casablanca" playing in front of two rows of bar stools, butcher-block paper table toppers and linen napkins—it's all trying pretty hard to say "restaurant experience!"

I didn't find it that seductive myself, but judging from the steady crowds on my trio of visits, plenty of folks like the concept. This is the third location in a greater-Detroit mini-chain, so maybe there's more appeal in the message than immediately met my eye (and palate, and price sensibilities).

The Wafel Shop on the other side of Fourth Avenue also specializes in batter-based confections, but the decor is plainer and the array of toppings simpler. The cheery counter staff offers a choice in preparation (actually different batters) between sweet and heavy Liège style or crispy and more familiar Brussels waffles (or, as they say in Belgium, wafels). Each costs $5 ($2 more for gluten-free), and basic toppings—butter, syrup, powdered sugar, or a light dusting of chocolate shavings—are free.

ILLUSTRATIONS: JOHN COPLEY

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Restaurant Reviews

The Wafel Shop's combos top out where What Crepe's begin, reflecting simpler topping options—no steak or salmon here, but there's plenty of bacon, a reportedly popular topping. Order à la carte, and a buck or two will get you any of five kinds of fruit (the blueberries and raspberries we sampled were fine and fresh) and a half-dozen sauces and spreads. Almost all—Michigan maple syrup, chocolate sauce, whipped cream—are familiar, but you may want to ask for a sample of the dense and unusual cookie-crumb-based Biscoff before springing for it.

Three kinds of nuts and bacon were as close as they got to savory toppings on our first visits, but the counter folks promised more to come, including perhaps a Mexican waffle, if you can imagine. Sure enough, whipped goat cheese, cheddar, and arugula made their debut as the Observer was going to press. Ice cream is promised for the summer months as well.

Zingerman's Coffee Company roasts a signature Wafel Shop blend, which is smooth and easy on the palate, if not particularly distinctive. The canister labeled "cream" pours Calder Dairy whole milk. Lots of espresso drinks, great teas, and juices are on hand to "pair" with your dessert (or breakfast, lunch, brunch, snack, or maybe even dinner).

For me, the simpler formula made the Wafel Shop an easier place to visit and relax at. Once or twice it reminded me of a dorm eatery, maybe because the evening clientele seemed pretty young. It's another interesting niche venture hoping to hit the sweet spot on Liberty.

—M.B. Lewis

What Crepe?
241 E. Liberty
369–3207

Tues.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m.–11 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Appetizers $7–$16, soup and salads $5–$14, savory crepes $11–$16.50, sweet crepes $8.25–$15.

The Wafel Shop
113 E. Liberty
369–4734

Tues.–Sat. 8 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun.–Mon. 8 a.m.–7 p.m.

Waffles $5–$7, most toppings extra, drinks $1–$4.75.

Pho House

Ignore the camouflage.

It's hard to take seriously a new restaurant that opens—and continues to operate a couple of months later—still sporting its predecessor's signs. Inside, too, the new Pho House on Washtenaw reveals a hodgepodge of the building's previous incarnations—Tios, Fattoush Grill,

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Fat Philly's—overlaid with a quick skim coat of southeast Asian decor. But friends reported promising Vietnamese cuisine beneath the camouflage, so my mother, brother, and I went to investigate.

Opened by a local Laotian family, the Inhmathongs, who owned the now closed Banh Na further west on Washtenaw, Pho House specializes in Vietnamese soups, noodle salads, and sandwiches. These are not the light, frilly dishes of the ladies-who-lunch crowd, but substantial, filling meals that satisfy basic cravings. *Pho*, a hearty beef broth soup loaded with rice noodles, is the big draw, and the restaurant has several renditions, along with a chicken option. We settled on the house specialty, pho *dac biet*, laden with thin strips of flank steak cooked in the hot broth, brisket, tripe, quartered meatballs, and incredibly succulent bits of tendon. Dumping in garnishes—jalapeno slices, bean sprouts, Thai basil, cilantro—and squirts of lime juice, we slurped up noodles and broth, fragrant with star anise, from a bowl so enormous we had leftovers for the next day's lunch—and that was the small option!

It's hard to take seriously a new restaurant that opens—and continues to operate a couple of months later—still sporting its predecessor's signs.

The "house special" *bun*, or vermicelli noodle salad, was equally generous. Thin sheets of marinated grilled pork, shrimp, fried fish cakes, spring rolls, pickled vegetables, herbs, and chopped peanuts hid piles of cold noodles, crunchy bean sprouts, and cucumbers. On the side came a bowl of *nuoc cham*, the traditional condiment of fish sauce, rice wine vinegar, and sugar that enlivens everything. A trio of hot, hotter, and hottest chili sauces on the table let us determine our own spice levels.

The "small" *banh mi*, or Vietnamese sub, was also hefty, but the paltry filling of grilled pork and pickled vegetables, though tasty, got lost in the oversized, squishy-soft bun. A stir-fried dish of egg noodles, assorted meats, seafood, and tender-crisp Chinese broccoli also left us rather uninspired, but those with plainer tastes would have sighed happily. Next time, we're looking forward to trying one of the *hu tieu* (pork and noodle) soups and the *canh chua*, a sweet-and-sour soup with rice. A slew of stir-fried entreés served over rice round out the menu.

I'm hoping that Pho House outlasts both the Fat Philly's signs and their departed predecessors. I have some serious soups to investigate.

—Lee Lawrence

Pho House
2224 Washtenaw
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Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

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table talk

Ruth Ehman, proprietor of **Firesign Family Farm** near Whitmore Lake, has a number of farming irons in the fire: animal, vegetable, and hospitable (she runs a B&B with or without a kind of dude ranch experience). But here we're talking cheese. Her marketing strategy is homey and informal.

You can drive out and buy some of her raw milk cheese, $20 a pound, pretty much anytime. By appointment is best: though she's not averse to drop-ins, she may put you to work shoveling manure. When I came out, she was sitting on her kitchen counter stirring a pot of curds and whey. "Door's open," she shouted. "I can't leave the stove." She left me stirring the pot while she cut up a plate of sample slices.

Ehman uses raw milk from her two antibiotic- and hormone-free Jersey cows—she calls them "the ladies"—to make four kinds of hard cheese: gouda, Swiss, cheddar, and Manchego. Asked if she requires a minimum purchase, she looks skyward for a minute and says, "Well, if someone wants to drive all the way out here for five dollars' worth of cheese, I guess that's fine with me." And then she adds a short aside: "Everything I sell meets the legal standard for raw milk products. I only sell hard cheese aged for sixty days." There are legal ways to get your hands on the younger soft cheeses she makes too, but it's more complicated than a cash transaction.

Her farm is the only place you can buy her cheese. She doesn't sell it to stores or restaurants: "I've been asked, but they want to buy it at a deep discount. I understand they have their own profit margins, but I don't really feel like making twice as much so I can sell it for half price."

To bring in a little cash during the slow winter months, Ehman also teaches cheese-making classes. With spring coming, though, she probably won't be teaching again until after the fall frost.

Firesign Family Farm, 449–0247, ruthehman@live.com, firesignfamilyfarm.com.

—Sally Mitani

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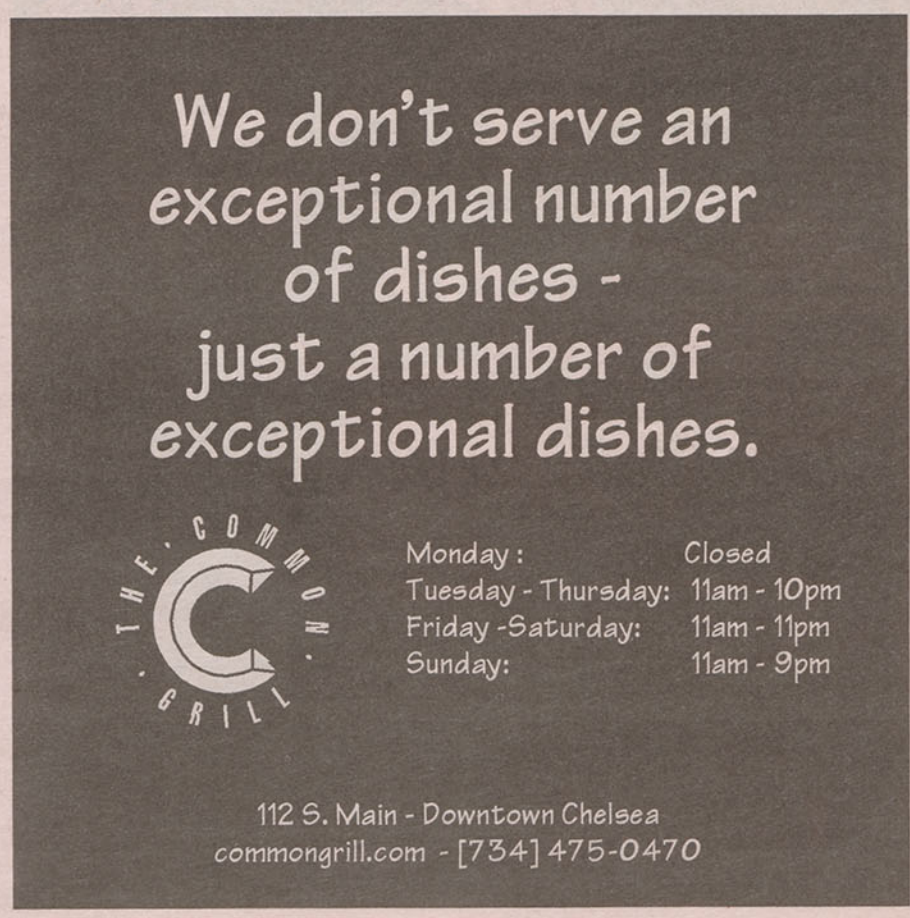
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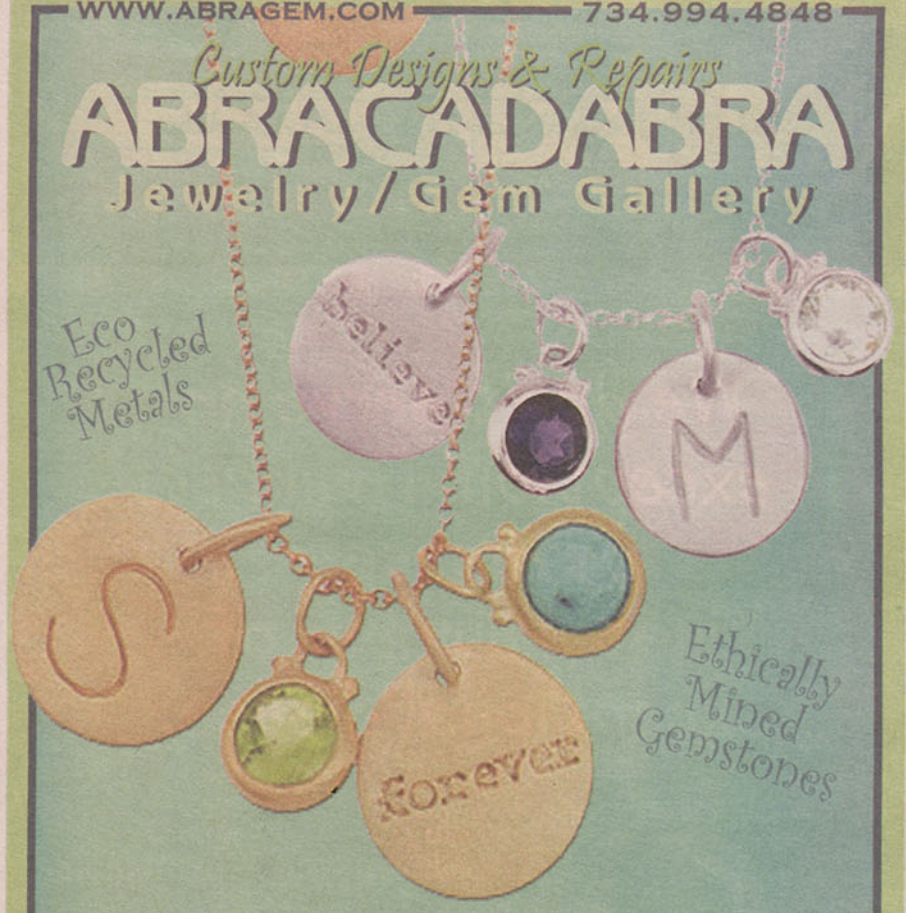

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Marketplace Changes

by Sally Mitani

Liking Literati

The bookstore meets the social network.

On March 31, Easter Sunday, "We flipped the 'open' sign at noon, and as soon as we did, we had three people," says Mike Gustafson, who with his fiance, Hilary Lowe, owns the **Literati** bookstore. "By mid-afternoon, fifteen or twenty people were browsing the shelves."

The death of Shaman Drum Bookshop and the slow demise of Borders tore a hole in the heart of Ann Arbor. Lowe and Gustafson think they can fill the void for a "general interest" downtown bookstore. They hasten to add: "Downtown has several specialty bookstores, and Nicola's is a quality general bookstore—but not downtown."

Lowe, twenty-seven, who grew up in Ann Arbor and worked in New York as a sales rep for Simon & Schuster, will manage the front of the house. Gustafson, thirty, is from Grand Rapids, has a background in film and creative writing, and will handle the marketing and social media.

Mike Gustafson and Hilary Lowe used social media to rev up interest in Literati— by the time it opened, the new bookstore had 2,000 "likes" on Facebook.

Literati was leveraged into being with plenty of help on a number of fronts, including the Internet. The web killed Borders and Shaman Drum, but Gustafson used it to rev up customers months before Literati opened. He says his blog posts have a "reach" of 10,000 readers, and the store's Facebook page had around 2,000 "likes" by the time it opened. As for capital, Ann Arbor State Bank put its trust in the young couple after, Lowe says, "we fundraised from a number of family members to prove we could do it." The bookshelves are Borders' actual bookshelves, bought at auction after the downtown store closed in 2011.

And they've carefully enlisted the help of people you could call local book royalty, like Keith Taylor—a poet (and Observer contributor) who, before taking a faculty position at U-M, worked at both Borders and Shaman Drum. In April, he read from his latest poetry book, inaugurating what Lowe calls "a robust events schedule," an indispensable part of the indie-bookstore survival toolkit.

But the most important help came from Joe Gable, who calls himself simply "a friend of the bookstore." Gable was manager of Borders store No. 1 from 1974 to 1996, and it was his erudition, uncompromising standards, and sometimes prickly personality that gave Borders much of its flavor.

"Borders is impossible to replicate these days," Gable points out. In its heyday, Borders had 120,000 titles—Literati hopes to have 10,000. "But that was pre-Internet," Gable notes, "and people perhaps read more and differently. Just to have that amount of square footage is impossible these days."

Gable helped Lowe and Gustafson pick their inventory to make the most of their space, beginning with organizing a backlist for the literary fiction in which Lowe wanted to specialize.

"Backlist" is bookstore lingo for anything not recently published. Gable lists the questions he grappled with: "Do people still read what are considered great works? I like to think that you can't have a serious literature section without Balzac, or all of Dickens, or most of George Eliot. Let alone, should you carry Hermann Broch or Robert Musil—he wrote one of the great novels of the twentieth century, *The Man Without Qualities*—or Elias Canetti. Do people still read Stendhal? Fielding? Smollett?" In the end, many of Literati's titles were chosen by making lists from Gable's personal library.

"I like what they've done with the store," Gable says. "It has a lot of charm. It reminds me of the City Lights bookstore in San Francisco." (Lowe cites Brooklyn's Greenlight and Minneapolis's Bookcase as her models.) "I hope that people will support it, along with Nicola's." But he injects a cautionary note: "People tend to talk a better game than they play. They jabber about 'won't it be nice to have a bookstore in downtown Ann Arbor?' and 'too bad that Borders and Shaman Drum are gone.' But will they go in to browse and then order something from Amazon?"

Literati, 124 E. Washington, 585–5567. Sun.–Wed. 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–10 p.m. literatibookstore.wordpress.com

More Changes on Washington

It's looking like the new Main Street.

Literati may be the sentimental favorite, but it's only one of many changes on the street. Washington, which has always seemed like a back alley to Liberty, is suddenly looking like the new Main Street.

Mark's Carts, at the west end of downtown, and Sava Lelcaj's upscale grocery Babo, on the campus end, have recently brought new excitement to the Washington streetscape. "I love the street," says Lelcaj. "The rents are amazing. If you want to have high traffic, you have to have great prices, and if you want to have great prices, you have to control your rent costs."

Lelcaj's latest move is to acquire three storefronts (one purchased, two rented) on the 200 block of East Washington. She hopes to open, by mid-September, a **Mediterranean-inspired restaurant** there.

In mid-April she had just returned from Barcelona, where her team of six (everyone from a cook to a graphic designer) searched for inspiration for what was to be a tapas restaurant. She came back convinced she needed to correct her course a little bit: "Traditional Spanish tapas would be a tough sell in Ann Arbor. It's all cheese, oil, bread. One night we had calamari soaked in ham hock fat. I grew up eating that food, but it just doesn't appeal to me anymore." So instead of classic tapas, her yet-to-be-named restaurant will be serving Mediterranean-inspired, but lighter, small plates. The center of the three buildings—the former **Mahek** Indian restaurant—will house a large kitchen, flanked on one side by a bar serving tapas and on the other by a more traditional dinner restaurant.

Renaissance, whose address isn't on Washington, but whose parking lot is entered via Washington, is open again, with a slightly shifted focus after a fire closed it down in December: "We aren't going to sacrifice our luxury clothing. We'll still carry our fine Italian lines, but we're also adding some more moderately priced clothing—for instance Joseph Abboud," says Bill Sizer, sales associate. "And of course custom-made clothing for men and women will remain a large part of our

PHOTOS BY J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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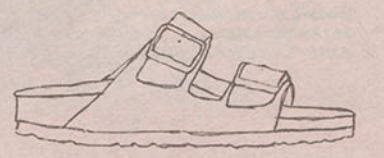

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Marketplace Changes

business."

Renaissance owner Roger Pothus isn't as sunny as Lelcaj about the future of Washington—or of downtown in general. "Look, it's Ann Arbor's first urban canyon," he says, waving a hand at Washington. To the west the Ann Arbor City Apartments high-rise is under construction at Washington and First; across the street the Varsity is going up next door to Sterling 411 Lofts; and to the east rise towers of North Quad and Corner House Apartments.

Pothus isn't anti-development, but he thinks the city has allowed all these high-rise buildings without considering the careful retail balance necessary to attract downtown shoppers. "Downtown is a glorified food court with a few brave retailers," he says. "The ones who are surviving are doing it because they're very, very good. Time after time, semi-luxury big retailers have eluded downtown, and now Arbor Hills Crossing [on Washtenaw] has signed Sur la Table and Anthropologie."

Jon Carlson discovered the street a long time ago—he opened Grizzly Peak on West Washington in 1995, and his 2Mission Design company is headquartered there. More recently he's followed up with the Blue Tractor and its basement bar, Mash, on East Washington—right across the street from the buildings where Lelcaj is now at work. "I almost feel guilty that we're going to benefit so much from the investment that Sava is making on Washington," he says.

Carlson himself isn't sitting on his hands: he says his **Old German** in the basement of Grizzly Peak will open in mid-June, serving German-style craft beer and a limited menu.

It will be, of course, a tribute to the Old German restaurant that stood on the spot for generations. The new bar's entrance will be on Ashley, the original Old German's side door. Though in mid-April the space was an empty shell, Carlson said all the hard work—like the moving of the bathrooms—had already been done; the rest, he says, will be "just cosmetic."

The firefighting equipment is "not a gimmick," says Jessica Hammond, who owns the Firehouse Subs franchise with her husband, Doug. The chain's founders have built close ties with firefighters across the country.

Firehouse Subs

A public service announcement

According to Jessica Hammond, a lot of people say, "I like your gimmick," when they see the ladder, pole, sledgehammer, and fire hose nozzles on the wall at Firehouse Subs.

"But it's not a gimmick," she says. An AAFD truck pulled up and firefighters ceremoniously presented the paraphernalia, "and there's more in the basement." OK, the turnout coat hanging on a peg, though it appears to be the real deal, came from the chain's corporate headquarters. Firehouse founders Chris and Robin Sorensen are brothers whose family has a decades-long record of fire and police service.

Since 9/11, firefighters are popular public servants (and "Police Station Subs" doesn't sound nearly as inviting). In 2006, the Sorensens established the Public Safety Foundation, which has donated more than $4.5 million to first responders, and fire stations around the country are tuned into that. Franchise owners are encouraged to connect with local firefighters for their mutual benefit, and Hammond has: "I've met with Chief [Chuck] Hubbard, and we're in close contact with [assistant chief] Ellen Taylor. She is so awesome." Eventually, Hammond says, the brothers hope the foundation is bigger than the sandwich chain.

Hammond is herself awesome in the category "Bring Home the Bacon, Fry It Up in a Pan." Eight months pregnant with her second child in April, she was commuting from Plymouth to work the long day shift and was still sprightly in the late afternoon. Her husband, Doug, who works full-time as a district sales manager for Coca-Cola, usually relieves her at dinner time.

Hammond, with a culinary degree from Schoolcraft and a hospitality degree from EMU, would have preferred to start her own restaurant, "but that costs a million dollars. So I started looking at franchises. Sonic [burgers] really wanted to be here, but they wanted a million dollars." Firehouse was a better fit with their pocketbook. It took two years to find the right location. (Another restaurant had originally leased the former White Market space; she quickly nabbed it when that fell through. She says she felt bad when she learned how much White Market had meant to the area.)

Firehouse competes with Potbelly and Quiznos (not so much Jimmy

The Zingerman's Times

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Times Readers Embark on Hungarian Adventures; Return Right After Lunch!

The *Times* travel bureau reports that Zingerman's Bakehouse is taking adventurous eaters on lunchtime trips to Europe. Among the most recent additions to the menu is a Hungarian-style matzo ball soup based on a traditional recipe from Rosenstein Restaurant in Budapest, famed for specializing in Jewish food. Available on Fridays –ask for a taste!

Travel to Wisconsin Wanes as Cheese Curds Appear on Local Menu

Ann Arborites no longer have to drive six hours west for fried curds – they just have to wait for the Wednesday specials menu at the Roadhouse! For those who haven't had them before, insiders confirm fried cheese curds are about as basic a building block of Wisconsin eating as you can get–they're pretty much considered the "National Dish of Wisconsin." As one customer said, "What's not to like? Really good fried cheese." Stop in for a sample!

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festival season kicks off with CAMP BACON

4th Annual Camp Bacon Aims to Cement Ann Arbor's Status as "Bacon Capital of the Midwest"; Proceeds Benefit Southern Foodways Alliance

From the *Times* Leisure pages: Amid the upcoming summer camp season, one event is drawing a special breed of camper. Tamworth, Berkshire, Duroc and other heritage hogs are joining the nation's foremost bacon-makers, chefs, musicians, poets, and historians along with bacon lovers from around the country at the fourth annual celebration of the nation's favorite cured and smoked meat at Zingerman's Camp Bacon. Seats are limited – reserve now! For details, full schedule, and reservations, visit www.zingermanscampbacon.com or write to baconbits@zingermans.com.

THE MAIN EVENT

Saturday, June 1st, 2013

$150/person

A benefit to raise money for the Southern Foodways Alliance

An all day bacon-fest celebrating everything that is bacon! 8am-4pm (breakfast is served at 7:30 am) at Zingerman's Roadhouse, Ann Arbor, MI. Reserve now – Seats are limited!

Featuring

Bacon history from Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzweig

All the way from Spain, makers of the famed Iberico ham bring fresh and cooked pork and discuss traditional hog raising and curing.

3rd generation bacon curer from Virginia, Sam Edwards and bacon legend Bob Nueske from Wisconsin!

Chef Eve Aronoff on Cuban pig cooking

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San Street Cited as Center of Asian Street Food Craze

According to *Times* investigators, the source of the Asian street food mania spreading throughout Ann Arbor has been traced to the San Street food cart, located at Mark's Carts behind Downtown Home & Garden.

Sources confirm the cart is operated Ji Hye Kim, and currently serves handmade Taiwanese buns and Vietnamese banh mi sandwiches with rotating specials. Traditional Asian street fare is "really simple, really delicious comfort food," Kim recently told the *Times*, adding, "we use the freshest and best quality ingredients we can find."

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Mark's Carts offers an array of fresh dishes every day for lunch and dinner. Insiders say this year includes a new beer garden in the parking lot at Ashley and Liberty streets. Check it out!

Mail Order Saves Mother's Day!

Across the country, people who feared Mother's Day would be ruined because they didn't have the perfect gift for mom are collectively sighing with relief that Zingerman's Mail Order has come to the rescue with the **Summer Fling Coffeecake**. Made with loads of slow-toasted coconut and zesty lime, along with fresh eggs, real vanilla and butter, this coffeecake is helping mom's favorite kids from coast to coast answer the age old question "Who loves you best, Mom?" with a definitive answer.

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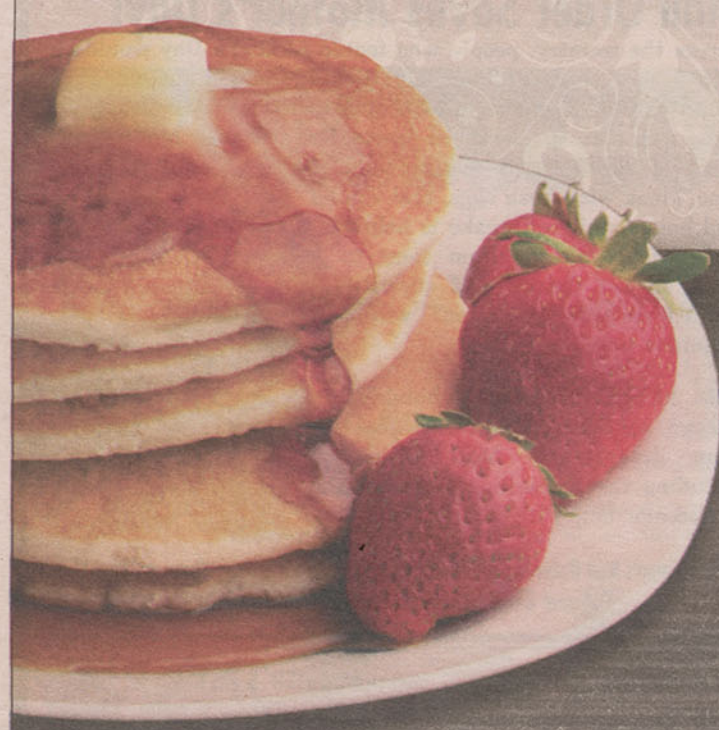

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Marketplace Changes

John's, which offers only cold sandwiches). "I'm not going to say anything bad about them. Hey, I eat at Potbelly and Quiznos myself"—though presumably not so much these days. She notes Firehouse does have a technical edge, a steam box that blasts new life into cold cuts before they hit the toaster.

Because of her husband's pull with Coke, Firehouse is one of the first area restaurants to get a very fun Coke "Freestyle" machine that dispenses more than a hundred Coke-trademarked soft drinks. Fun, at least, for the person using it, who can, and sometimes does, pause and deliberate over screen after screen of options.

Firehouse Subs, 609 E. William, 332–4100. Daily 10 a.m.–10 p.m. firehousesubs.com

Briefly Noted

Naked Furniture finally completed its move a block east to its new home across from Arborland. For months, neon-colored signs screamed that a move was imminent and a sale in progress. Now equally loud signage in the new store announces a "huge event" in progress. The huge event is the store's transition from a purveyor of cheap, unfinished pine furniture to one specializing in custom-finished hardwood furniture. Unlike the old dim space, the front showroom is now flooded with natural light and filled with samples of elegant Shaker-like hutches, tables, chairs, and bookcases in maple, elm, and quarter-sawn white oak.

Owner Ron LaFleur says: "I have a gut feeling that things are about to get a lot better in the furniture business. People want solid, good-quality furniture these days. And they don't want to do their own finishing. It's a thankless job, if you do it right."

LaFleur knows how to do it right. He has a furniture finishing operation in Hartland where he custom paints or stains anything he sells. "I'm in that shop at five in the morning when the rooster cocka-doodle-doos, lighting the woodstove." Actually holding the paintbrush himself? "I don't use a paintbrush—I use a sprayer," he counters. He does add that the Amish prefer to do their own custom finishing, and more and more of his inventory is coming from their factories.

LaFleur's Naked Furniture is unrelated to the Royal Oak store of the same name. Once a corporation with fifty-four franchises, Naked Furniture disbanded in 2008, and some of the store owners, like LaFleur, struck off on their own.

He still stocks the back showroom with more inexpensive lines of pine furniture: a pine cube is his best seller at $30. People use it for nightstands, end tables, or bookcases.

Something about the hulking, battered ruggedness of LaFleur suggests a hockey player, which in turn suggests Guy Lafleur (as he spells it), one of history's most famous NHL players. Ron is indeed a relative—Lafleur is his father's first cousin. "Yeah, I skated with him, when I was a kid, at hockey camp," he smiles. "I still see him from time to time."

Naked Furniture, 3570 Washtenaw, 975–9080. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m. nakedfurnitureannarbor.com

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The name of the **Mocha Monkey Café** is a reference to owner Jamal Abusway's past. The Mocha Monkey was a favorite coffee drink at the Shaky Ground, a now-defunct coffee shop near San Francisco's Chinatown where he worked ten years ago. He features a drink at Mocha Monkey called the Shaky Ground (iced coffee with vanilla syrup), as well as a Mocha Monkey (espresso with chocolate and banana). The drink called the Sway is another cryptic reference to a coffee shop ghost—his first coffee shop, the Sway on Washtenaw and Golfside.

Abusway and Voichita (pronounced "vo-KEE-tah") Gabor, his blond Romanian business partner with a seductive Gabor-ish accent, have made the former Espresso Royale on Carpenter (in Bell Arbor Commons, across from the Great Lake Chinese restaurant) into a homey, comfortable spot, strewn with cushions and comfortable couches and chairs.

While there is no real restaurant kitchen, you can even get a hot meal there. The menu features paninis and soups as well as a wide variety of Middle Eastern pastries and smoothies.

"I can't stop bragging about the smoothies," Abusway says. "They're awesome. You pick your fruit, nothing canned, and it's made on the spot."

Mocha Monkey Café, 2871 Carpenter (Bell Arbor Commons), 795–1800. Mon.–Sat. 7 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.–9 p.m.

The **Glassbox Café** is one of many new businesses springing up around the Landmark high rise on the corner of South U and Forest, but it may be the greatest retail land grab of the year. "It was a bit of random luck" says owner Jason Friend. "I know people from Campus Realty," and he talked them into letting him turn some of their ground-floor office space into a coffee shop. "I guess I caught everyone in a good mood."

Glassbox has floor-to-ceiling glass on two of its three sides: the building is a wedge-shaped flatiron on the point of land where South U meets Washtenaw.

In early April, all the reflecting glass and solar heat was actually getting on Friend's nerves. He insisted on conducting the interview in the sunny but chilly courtyard where he had just set up a few outdoor tables. Friend says his wife, Alissa, got him into coffee. They both worked in the business in New York and moved to Ann Arbor mainly because she fell in love with the town (she's currently taking a breather from the business while raising their three children, though "she's occasionally taking a shift").

The tiny shop has a laser-like focus on a few well-made beverages: a short list of espresso drinks; brewed coffee made to order in an Aeropress (barista Hannah Wood says the machine is rare-to-nonexistent

in area coffee shops); and, a surprise hit to everyone, the juice drinks. The juices perfume the entire shop, because many of them are made with fresh basil and mint. Wood candidly offered that the most popular is one made from mint, orange, and blood orange because, at $3.75, "it's a little cheaper than the others."

Glassbox Cafe, 1335 South University, no phone. Mon.–Fri. 8:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Kelly Hadin, a former classical ballet dancer who performed around the country, has opened **Shine** on Fourth Avenue. This is the second Shine—she opened the first in Royal Oak six years ago. Though she doesn't own the gift store, she's chief buyer and manager for two silent owners.

Hadin says repeat customers hone the merchandise in a gift shop. She hopes to cultivate in Ann Arbor a similar loyal clientele who "show up on all the major holidays and birthdays in their lives." She carries everything from baby gifts to fine art photography. She points out some favorites, like the subtly and unusually scented (cultured sake, Portuguese olive blossom) Kobo soy candles and a water-powered clock. Most merchandise is in the $10–$30 range, and she offers free gift wrapping.

Shine, 211 S. Fourth, 222–1818. Mon.–Fri. 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. shopshine.net.

Closings

"We started the store because we wanted to see a kitchen store in Kerrytown," Tom Hollander recalls. The kitchen was already in there, courtesy of Mary Campbell's short-lived experimental restaurant/classroom/kitchen store, Everyday Cook. **Hollander's Kitchen & Home** lasted longer, but it, too, will close—probably toward the end of May.

Tom and his wife, Cindy, got the store up and running in 2009, but their hope, from the very beginning, was that someone else would step up to the plate and buy, or at least manage, it for them. Instead, he says, "It was a revolving door. Every time someone left, we'd have to train a new manager. There are only so many hours in the day, and we had too much going on" in their paper-and-card store downstairs.

Knit A Round will close when the lease is up at the end of June or hopefully before, says co-owner Carrie Pozza. The knitting and yarn shop opened in Traver Village in 2001. Pozza says the rumors that it was done in by the Internet are not at all true—she and her partner, Sheri Preketes, are just ready to retire.

Pozza says Preketes' husband "retired four years ago, and it's been hard to keep her down." Pozza, too, is ready to move on. She's heading to Key West—"as good a place as any to start over." She went there for the first time last March and "fell in love with the place. I've been back three times since," she said, as she worked on an ocean-colored cotton throw.

She does admit that the Internet changed the yarn shop business, but she and Preketes found ways to roll with the punches. "We stopped buying patterns and books," mostly because of Ravelry, which she describes as "Facebook for knitters." "But people still want to feel and see yarn, and they get inspired by projects they see on display."

There will be an all-day "wake" on May 1. "People will bring things they've made"—knitted things, she means, although "one lady said she's bringing libations."

Great Shanghai in the Westgate Shopping Center closed. "They were at the end of their lease," says co-owner and leasing agent Jim Chaconas. "They were nice people, but they weren't making any money. They were essentially working for free. I reduced the rent a few times, and we still couldn't make it work." Anglos tended to come for the large buffet in back, but the restaurant was known among many Chinese patrons for its excellent steamed dumplings, says Wei Bee (co-owner of Sweetwaters and himself from an area restaurant family). Owner Xiu Li Zhou really was from Shanghai and had left there fairly recently, too. Chaconas said he communicated with her through an interpreter.

Beth Ziegler shrugs when asked why her (and husband David's) second **Grand Traverse Pie Company** couldn't survive at its E. Liberty location. "We thought it was a unique enough product"—an alternative to all the burgers and subs. "Corporate was excited about it. It does really well in two other college towns, Terre Haute and East Lansing."

Ziegler says their other location, on Zeeb Road in Scio Township, is doing fantastically well. There the clientele is mostly middle-aged women who take full advantage of the combination pie shop/bakery/casual restaurant, coming in for lunch and taking home a pie for dinner, or coming in for a snack and buying a sack of muffins for breakfast.

Lisa Taylor, director of franchise support, wrote to say that **Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory** closed "due to lease expiration." Also, presumably, because the franchise, on the same block of Liberty where Grand Traverse Pie Company closed weeks before, wasn't selling enough product.

Smoka Hookah closed in late March. Mike, manager of the Rendez Vous Café—both businesses are owned by Nizar El Awar—emphasizes that this was the small hookah-selling shop across from the Rendez Vous, not the Smoking Lounge upstairs—a separate business from the cafe, and a place where one can still smoke a hookah.

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email sallymitani@gmail.com or leave voicemail at 769–3175 x 309.

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ums
BE PRESENT

AUDRA MCDONALD

SEASON CALENDAR

SEP	6	Jason Moran's Fats Waller Dance Party	Location TBA
	15	Audra McDonald	Hill Auditorium
	18–21	Complicite and Setagaya Public Theatre: *Shun-kin*	Power Center
	27–28	Hubbard Street Dance Chicago: *One Thousand Pieces*	Power Center
OCT	10	Chanticleer	St. Francis of Assisi
	11	Buika	Michigan Theater
	12	Takács Quartet	Rackham Auditorium
	18	Chris Thile	Rackham Auditorium
	25	András Schiff, piano: Bach's Goldberg Variations	Hill Auditorium
	26–27	*The Manganiyar Seduction*	Power Center
	29–Nov 2	Blind Summit: *The Table*	Performance Network
NOV	1–2	Ballet Preljocaj: *And Then, One Thousand Years of Peace*	Power Center
	3	Apollo's Fire: Bach's Brandenburg Concerti	Hill Auditorium
	9	Steve Lehman Octet	Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
	12	Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain	Michigan Theater
	13	Hagen Quartet	Rackham Auditorium
	16	San Francisco Symphony: Mahler's Symphony No. 3 Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor	Hill Auditorium
	24	Brooklyn Rider with Béla Fleck	Rackham Auditorium
DEC	7–8	Handel's *Messiah*	Hill Auditorium
JAN	7–12	*Bullet Catch*	Arthur Miller Theatre
	15–16	Colin Stetson	Arthur Miller Theatre
	17–18	Kronos Quartet	Power Center
	26	Denis Matsuev, piano	Hill Auditorium
	30	Fred Hersch Trio	Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
FEB	5	Ariel Quartet with Alisa Weilerstein, cello	Rackham Auditorium
	6	Kremerata Baltica Gidon Kremer, violin	Hill Auditorium
	7	*One Night in Bamako* Bassekou Kouyaté & Ngoni Ba and Fatoumata Diawara	Michigan Theater
	14	St. Lawrence String Quartet	Rackham Auditorium
	14–15	Compagnie Käfig	Power Center
	16	Joshua Bell, violin	Hill Auditorium
	19-22	Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord: Can Themba's *The Suit* Directed by Peter Brook	Power Center
	22	St. Petersburg Philharmonic Yuri Temirkanov, conductor Denis Kozhukhin, piano	Hill Auditorium
MAR	14	Alfredo Rodríguez Trio and the Pedrito Martinez Group	Michigan Theater
	15	Israel Philharmonic Orchestra: Bruckner's Symphony No. 8 Zubin Mehta, music director	Hill Auditorium
	18	Elias Quartet	Rackham Auditorium
	20	Tara Erraught, mezzo-soprano	Hill Auditorium
	21	Asif Ali Khan Qawwali Music of Pakistan	Rackham Auditorium
	25	Wendy Whelan: *Restless Creature*	Power Center
	27	Tenebrae	St. Francis of Assisi
	30	Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis	Hill Auditorium
APR	4	UMS Choral Union: Brahms' German Requiem	Hill Auditorium
	10	Los Angeles Guitar Quartet	Michigan Theater
	13	Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin	Hill Auditorium

Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.*

The Arena

203 E. Washington **222–9999**

This downtown sports bar features live music Mon. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Laith Al-Saadi Trio.** An eclectic mix of roots Americana, classic rock, and blues, including many originals, by a jazz-tinged, jam-oriented trio led by local singer-guitarist Al-Saadi. With Macpodz drummer Griffin Bastian and bassist Ben Luttermoser.

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon.–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and theark.org, and at the door. **May 1: Billy Bragg.** An immensely gifted, gruff-voiced British troubadour, Bragg is known for his pungent original songs, at once subtly nuanced and vividly blunt, in a variety of moods, from scathing political and social satire to Dylanesque ballads. His repertoire also includes political songs from William Blake to Sweet Honey in the Rock to a variety of what he wittily calls "American working-class music" from Hank Williams to the Jackson Five, and his new CD, *Tooth & Nail,* is a collection of original songs on contemporary working-class themes whose music is steeped in American folk and country traditions. He also still performs some of the 40 or so vigorous, sinewy folk-rock songs he composed from recently rediscovered lyrics by country-folk legend Woody Guthrie, most of which were released on the acclaimed *Mermaid Avenue* CDs Bragg made with the alt-country band Wilco. Opening act is **Kim Churchill,** an Australian experimental acoustic guitarist and singer-songwriter. $40. **May 2: "For Pete's Sake: A Pete Seeger Birthday Tribute."** A celebration of the folk legend's 94th birthday features in-the-round performances, with lots of sing-alongs and between song stories. The all-star lineup of area singer-songwriters includes **Chris Buhalis, Dick Siegel, Michael Hough,** and **Paul Tinkerhess,** along with Lansing folksinger and autoharpist **Wanda Degen** and **Gemini,** an acoustic trio now that twin brothers Laszlo and Sandor Slomovits have been joined by San's daughter Emily. A benefit for the Ark. $10. **May 3: Mountain Heart.** Winner of the 1999 International Bluegrass Association Emerging Artist of the Year Award, this bluegrass ensemble blends traditional and progressive styles. Its 2005 CD, *The Journey,* is a collection of traditional southern gospel tunes, and its 2006 CD, *Wide Open,* blends originals with songs by well-known country and bluegrass songwriters. The band's 2010 CD, *Road That Never Ends,* was recorded live at the Ark. $30. **May 4: Bill Frisell.** One of today's most inventive jazz composer-guitarists, Frisell is known for everything from genre-blending originals full of multihued improvisations to novel arrangements of standards. $30. **May 6: Zoë Keating.** San Francisco-based Canadian composer-cellist who uses a foot-controlled laptop to create lush, layered, somewhat otherworldly musical textures. The *San Francisco Weekly* calls it "swoon-inducing … like taking a triple shot of absinthe before stepping outside the bar just in time to see the sun exploding." Her 2005 CD *One Cello x 16: Natoma* has enjoyed 4 stints atop the iTunes classical chart. $20. **May 7: David Lindley.** This multi-instrumental virtuoso is a world music pioneer whose repertoire includes African, Arabic, Asian, Celtic, and Turkish traditions, as well as a wide array of American forms from traditional to rock 'n' roll. His performances also feature an amazingly wide array of acoustic and electric acoustic instruments, including Hawaiian lap steel guitar, Turkish saz and chumbus, Middle Eastern oud, Irish bouzouki, and more. In 1967 Lindley founded the first world music rock band, Kaleidoscope, and since then his career has been shaped by lengthy collaborations with Jackson Browne, Ry Cooder, guitarist Henry Kaiser (with whom he recorded 2 Grammy-nominated CDs of collaborations with Malagasy musicians), and Jordanian percussionist Hani Naser. $20. **May 8: Bill Staines.** Veteran singer-songwriter whose restless, brooding songs have been recorded by everyone from Nanci Griffith to Tommy Makem to the late Grandpa Jones. A past winner of the National Yodeling Championship, Staines also performs lots of yodeling tunes and sing-alongs. $15. **May 9: "An Open Book: An Evening with Justin Furstenfeld of Blue October."** Solo performance by the frontman of the Houston rock band whose music is known for its searchingly intimate explorations of his many personal battles. His current tour, a blend of spoken word and acoustic music, features excerpts from the new expanded 3rd edition of *Crazy Making,* Furstenfeld's collection of lyrics and writings, and a set of both brand-new songs and old favorites. Also, a Q&A. Opening act is **Ashleigh Stone,** an indie pop singer-songwriter and keyboardist from San Marcos. $25. **May 10: Cairn to Cairn.** Celtic music and folk songs by the local trio of flutist Kelly McDermott, guitarist Terry Farmer, and bassist Rob Crozier. "Cairn to Cairn explores the world and sound of Celtic folk with a kind of clear-eyed precision, but with heart and soul as well, which means they make these tunes breathe like they're actually alive," says allmusic.com reviewer Steve Leggett. $15. **May 11: The Chenille Sisters.** The nationally renowned local trio of singer-songwriters Cheryl Dawdy, Connie Huber, and Grace Morand is known for its unbeatable combination of breathtakingly precise and resonant vocal harmonies. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals and jazz, swing, blues, and folk standards, and its recently released *May I Suggest* features "Your State's Name Here," "God's Gift to Women," and other songs their fans have requested them to do. $20. **May 12: Leon Redbone.** Iconoclastic folkie with a darkly resonant voice and a cultivated air of mystery undiminished by his somewhat buffoonish role in TV commercials. Always outfitted in a (usually white) suit, his trademark Panama hat, and sunglasses, Redbone sits in a chair with his legs crossed and, accompanying himself on guitar, whispers or croons ragtime tunes, traditional urban and country blues, and early-20th-century jazz, crooner pop, and vaudeville songs. $25. **May 14: Kristin Hersh.** The longtime lead singer of the eccentric postpunk band Throwing Muses, Hersh has won fresh attention and widespread acclaim since going solo. Her music blends a fetching melodicism with open-ended, often complex structures, and with its demented intensity and suggestion of multiple personalities, her singing makes her sound like a female Gordon Gano. Her current shows feature lots of material from her forthcoming new CD, *Spark Meet Gasoline.* $15. **May 15: Shinyribs.** *See review, p. 73.* The stage name of Kevin Russell, the frontman of the Austin-based multi-genre neohillbilly party band The Gourds. His own music is both more formally adventurous and equally promiscuous, mixing various country idioms, gospel, and funk with a wayward poetic impulse. "He's the anti-frontman, with a chameleon quality to his singing that swings from compone honk to silky soul in a breath," says *Austin Chronicle* critic Margaret Moser in her review of his 2010 CD *Well After Awhile.* "Better, he's a prolific songwriter of remarkable ability, capable of twisting that voice around his hardscrabble songs with unexpected emotion." Shinyribs has a brand-new CD, *Gulf Coast Museum.* $10. **May 16: Anais Mitchell & Jefferson Hamer.** An acclaimed young pop-folk singer-songwriter from rural Vermont with a deceptively girlish voice, Mitchell and her collaborator Hamer tonight showcase material from their new CD, *Child Ballads,* a collection of reimagined readings of a selection of the traditional ballads canonized in the collection published between 1882 and 1898 by the American folklorist James Francis Child. Opening act is **Mike & Ruthy,** a Woodstock (NY) folk-rock duo. $15. **May 17: Grant-Lee Phillips.** *See review, p. 70.* The former frontman of the popular postpunk folk-rock band Grant Lee Buffalo, Phillips has reemerged as an acoustic Americana singer-songwriter who writes gorgeously evocative songs on an array of public and private themes. "My albums are becoming more stark, more unguarded, and more vulnerable," Phillips says of his 2010 CD *Little Moon,* and his new CD, *Walking in the Green Corn,* is a collection of songs exploring his Muskogee (Creek) heritage. $15. **May 18: Josh White Jr.** Known for his powerful, intense singing and his virtuosity on 6-string and 12-string guitars, White sings in a more modern style than his famous folksinger father. His blues, gospel, and folk repertoire includes many of his father's best-known songs as well as several upbeat, inspirational originals. $20. **May 19: Mr. B's Joybox Express Fundraiser.** Internationally renowned as one of the most exciting contemporary interpreters of traditional boogie-woogie and blues piano, Ann Arbor's Mark "Mr. B" Braun is joined by several longtime stars of the local music scene to raise money for his bicycle tours hauling his upright piano to raise funds for organizations that provide arts and athletic programs for kids. Performers include jazz and blues harmonica wizard **Peter Madcat Ruth,** electric guitar virtuoso **George Bedard,** jazz pianist **Ellen Rowe,** jazz bassist **Paul Keller,** jazz drummer **Pete Siers,** folksinger **San Slomovits,** and others TBA. $30. 1 p.m. **May 19: Jeffrey Foucault & Cold Satellite.** Acclaimed 6-piece rock band whose music, which the *Washington Post* calls "rock 'n' roll in the key of country noir," is shaped by the songwriting collaboration of frontman Foucault, a Wisconsin-based American roots-music singer-songwriter known for wry, deftly poetic lyrics and rich-toned fingerstyle guitar accompaniment, and the Hayden Carruth Award–winning poet Lisa Olstein, a University of Massachusetts creative writing professor. The band's 2nd CD, *Cavalcade,* is due out this week. Opening act is **The Pines,** an up-and-coming Iowa indie folk-noir septet fronted by the singer-songwriter duo of David Huckfelt and Benson Ramsey. $15. **May 20: Vandaveer.** D.C.-based alt-folk ensemble led by the duo of singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Charles Heidinger and vocalist Rose Guerin. Its music, at once seductively melodic and unsettlingly desolate, draws on an array of influences from Shel Silverstein to John Steinbeck to explore the darker, death-haunted precincts of traditional American music. Its new CD, *Oh, Willie, Please,* is a collection of old-time standards, from "Pretty Polly" and "The Knoxville Girl" to "Mary of the Wild Moor" and "Henry Lee." $11. **May 22: Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys.** Veteran neo-rockabilly and Western swing sextet from southern California led by singer-songwriter Big Sandy. The band is known for its ace musicianship and for a stylistic eclecticism that absorbs western swing, boogie-woogie, Cajun, mariachi, and various other dance music idioms. $20. **May 23: Stewart Francke.** Thoughtful, well-crafted, soulful contemporary folk-rock songs by this veteran Detroit singer-songwriter. $15. **May 24: Livingston Taylor.** Like his more famous brother James, Livingston Taylor first emerged as part of the singer-songwriter boom of the late 60s and early 70s. From his first hits ("Carolina Day" and "In My Reply"), his music has remained consistently sweet-tempered, emotionally direct and buoyant, occasionally very humorous, and laid back in a way that evokes a thoughtful country squire. Opening act is **Chelsea Berry,** a Boston-based, Alaska-bred folk-rock singer-songwriter whom Taylor praises for her "voice of remarkable power and control with a joyous soul." $20. **May 25: Gangstagrass and Cabinet.** Double bill of young bluegrass-based bands. Gangstagrass is a Brooklyn-based band, most widely known through the use of its "Long Hard Times to Come" as the theme song for *Justified,* that mixes bluegrass with hip-hop, and Cabinet is a Scranton-area sextet whose music infuses traditional bluegrass with *American Beauty*–era Grateful Dead and other rock-based

Celtic Americana

Ghost City Searchlight

Lyrical storytelling with a pounding beat

Ann Arbor is fortunate to have local bands playing music across a wide range of genres, and in Ghost City Searchlight it's got the classic Celtic pub band fully covered. The six-piece band led by singer-guitarist Tommy Coupar will get your feet tapping and the pints flowing in just about any barroom setting. Tall and wiry, with shaggy hair and muttonchops, Coupar is full of energy. Early in a recent Ghost City Searchlight show at Woodruff's in Ypsilanti, Coupar broke a guitar string during a flurry of strumming. "I'm a bit gun-shy now," he said, later in the set, "I'm not strumming as hard." He then proceeded to dive into another song, playing just as frantically as he had all night—and threw in some theatrical jumps for good measure.

Joining Coupar in Ghost City Searchlight are accordionist Jesse Miller, who also plays in Black Jake and the Carnies; Jesse's wife, Sian Miller, sharing vocals; multi-instrumentalist Dave Brandt on lead guitar, banjo, and mandolin; Joe Sleep on bass guitar; and Jessica Hanna on backing vocals and stand-up drums, which she thumps with mallet sticks.

Coupar and Brandt first met and played music together in Stone Crazy Pirates, a pirate-themed band—yes, pirate-themed. They formed Ghost City Searchlight, Coupar says, with a shared desire to "play Celtic and American folk music with all the attack and energy associated with a punk rock ethos." He fondly recalls visiting Great Britain with his parents (his father is Scottish and his mother English) and discovering the Corries, a Scottish folk band that sang tales of battles and outlaws and the general carnage that accompanies such themes. He was enamored by both their lyrical storytelling and the "driving, leg-stomping, hand-clapping, table-pounding beat that propelled the songs forward." Discovering the Dropkick Murphys several years later reinforced his love of the Celtic genre.

Ironically, all the band members can trace their lineage to a country in the British Isles, but none of them to Ireland. That doesn't stop them from sounding Irish—though Coupar admits that the accent he often sings in comes from channeling his father's angry voice.

Onstage, Sian Miller matches Coupar's energetic singing, either trading lead vocals or accompanying him for a richer, fuller sound. The voices mesh well together while keeping the sense of spontaneity that traditional Irish music needs—particularly when it's fused with punk.

In November the band released a five-song EP; mastered by Jason Magee of 16 More Miles and Erik Santos of the October Babies, it's on the local label Oddfellow Music. Coupar and the band are currently wading through a backlog of original material to prepare them to begin work on a full-length album later this year.

In the meantime, get out and see Ghost City Searchlight, preferably at an establishment that serves good pints and is well equipped with a dance floor. They'll open the Friday night music season at Mark's Carts Courtyard on May 3 and are at the Crazy Wisdom Tearoom on May 10.

—Chris Berggren

Americana flavors. $15. **May 28: Mike Vial & the Great Lake Effect.** Howell pop-rock band led by singer-songwriter Vial. FREE. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers. **May 29: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). **May 30: Abigail Stauffer.** Local singer-songwriter with a rich, resonant alto voice who's known for her piercing, emotionally direct pop-folk and pop-rock songs. She released her debut CD, *Alone to Dream,* in 2011, and she comes to the Ark with a just completed sophomore effort. $15. **May 31: Edwin McCain.** Hook-laden, roots-flavored acoustic modern rock trio led by McCain, a South Carolina singer-songwriter who first came to fame with "Solitude," a hit single duet with Hootie & the Blowfish frontman Darius Rucker. His new CD, *Mercy Bound,* is a collaboration with California country-pop songwriter Maia Sharp. $20.

The B-Side
310 E. Washington 214–9995

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **May 11: Open Mike.** All teen musicians invited. **May 18: Hip-Hop Showcase.** Performances by **JJ Royce**, **MR:B**, **Obie Iyoha**, and other up-and-coming local hip-hop MCs.

Bar Louie
401 E. Liberty 794–3000

This downtown tavern features live music Wed. 8–11:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Black Pearl.

The Black Pearl
302 S. Main 222–0400

This seafood and martini bar features live music Tues. & Wed. 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. March schedule TBA. **Every Tues.: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **May 1: Jody Raffoul.** Canadian pop-rock singer-songwriter whose music has been described as a hybrid of Bono and Bruce Springsteen's styles. He is joined by backup vocalist and guitarist **Wes Buckley. May 8:** TBA. **May 15: Jody Raffoul.** See above. **May 22: Lucas Paul.** Local pop-rock singer-songwriter, accompanied by keyboardist Adam Rogers. **May 29: Beth Stalker & Jim Rawlings.** An eclectic mix of styles, from blues, R&B, and jazz to rock and country, by the Detroit Music Award–winning duo of singer-songwriter Stalker and songwriter-guitarist Rawlings.

The Blind Pig
208 S. First St. 996–8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the 8-Ball Saloon (below the club) and at etix.com. **Every Tues.: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands TBA each week. **May 1: The Old Adage.** Monroe acoustic Christian alternative-rock trio fronted by siblings Mimi and Nino Chavez. Opening acts are the local surf-rock garage trio **Ten Bellow,** the Holly (MI) rock 'n' roll quintet **The Heard,** and **The Blue Squares,** a Detroit quartet that plays gritty garage rock. **May 2: Wednesday in May.** Local rock trio. Opening acts are the Columbus indie rock singer-songwriter **Daniel Drouhard,** the Flint country-rock quartet **The Marietta,** the Flint punk-rock quartet **As a Lark,** the Detroit indie rock quartet **The Mackinac Peaches,** and the Toledo punk-rock quartet **The Fight Within. May 3: Ann Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **May 4: The Kickstand Band.** Detroit rock 'n' roll trio. Opening acts are the local big-beat rock trio **The Deadbeat Beat,** the local punk band **K9 Sniffies,** and **Growing Pains. May 6: Black Pus.** The stage name of the drummer-vocalist Brian Chippendale of the Providence (RI) noise-rock band Lightning Bolt. Opening acts are **Arrington de Dionyso's Malaikat dan Singa,** an Olympia (WA) trance-punk ensemble whose trademark wild vocals and grounded in multi-harmonic symphonic throat-singing, and **Mounds.** Advance tickets: $8. **May 8: Tyler Hilton.** L.A.-based pop-rock singer-songwriter with an engagingly husky voice who's most widely known for his role as Elvis in the Johnny Cash biopic *Walk the Line.* Opening act is **Ryan Cabrera,** a pop-rock singer-songwriter from Dallas who scored a top-10 hit with his debut single "On the Way Down" in 2004, and actor **Teddy Geiger,** a raspy-voiced young singer-songwriter from Rochester (NY) known for his lyrically sophisticated pop-rock. Advance tickets: $15 ($18 at the door). 7–11 p.m. **May 9: Captured! by Robots.** San Francisco electro-metal band made up of robots and their human "slave." **May 10: Dead in 5.** Detroit outlaw rock band featuring Mansfield Park lead singer Robert Libres and former members of 60 Second Crush. Opening acts are **A.S.S.,** a Toronto postpunk rock band, and Gepetto Files postpunk musical comedy marionette troupe founder **Ted Talvitie.** Also, Lucky Monkey Tattoo artists are on hand. Giveaways. **May 11: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. **May 15: Willie the Kid.** Grand Rapids hip-hop MC who is featured on DJ Drama's *Gangsta Grillz* CDs and 2 of Lil' Wayne's *Dedication* mixtapes. Opening acts are Flint hip-hop MC **Jon Connor,** Detroit-area hip-hop MC **Tekh Togo,** and Grand Rapids hip-hop MC **Rick Chyme. May 16: Vietnam.** California band whose music blends blues, rock, and soul. Opening act is **The Skis,** the Chicago-based jam-oriented folk-rock duo of Tom Shemanski & Josh Grablowski. Advance tickets: $8 ($10 at the door). **May 17: Colin Stetson.** Avant-jazz ensemble led by this Ann Arbor–bred, Montreal-based saxophonist, a former member of the local ensemble Transmission who has recorded with everyone from Tom Waits and Anthony Braxton to Jolie Holland. Opening act is **Justin Walter,** a jazz ensemble led by this Ann Arbor–bred, Brooklyn-based trumpeter. Advance tickets: $8 ($10 at the door). **May 18: Kaleido.** Detroit pop-rock quintet fronted by vocalist Christina Chriss. Opening acts are **Nine Years Away,** a Detroit punk-rock quartet, and **Motel Model,** a local alternative pop-rock quartet that recently released its debut EP, *Jukebox Moon.* Advance tickets: $8 ($10 at the door). **May 22:** TBA. **May 23: Boldy James.** Detroit hip-hop MC with a blue-collar point of view. Opening acts are **P.L.,** a Detroit R&B-inflected hip-hop MC, and **Prhyme Rhyme Boss,** a local hip-hop MC. **May 24: 3rd Annual Nirvana Tribute.** Several local bands perform Nirvana songs, including Detroit experimental alternative rock trio **My Pal Val,** the local stoner doom metal trio **Wizard Union,** the Detroit garage rock quartet **The Secret Weapons,** the Detroit punk-rock garage band **Grind Scheme,** the suburban Detroit postpunk trio **Fucking Swords & Fire,** the local punk-rock band **Black Jack on Pluto,** the Detroit rock 'n' roll quartet **Hit Society,** the noise-punk garage trio **Nameless,** and the Ypsilanti garage rock band **Hobo Train Wreck Suicide.** Advance tickets: $8 ($10 at the door). **May 25: Super Happy Funtime Burlesque.** Grand Rapids–based musical comedy burlesque troupe. With local burlesque clown **Mabel Syrup. May 29:** TBA. **May 30:** TBA. **May 31: The Smiths United.** A Detroit Smiths/Morrissey tribute band. Opening acts are **Playground Twist,** a Detroit Siouxsie & the Banshees tribute band, and **DJ Josh Burge.**

The Blue Nile
221 E. Washington 998–4746

This downtown restaurant features live music, Fri. & Sat. 6–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Louis Johnson.** Jazz standards and New Ethiopian jazz by this local pianist and saxophonist. On Saturdays he is joined by bassist Will Austin, keyboardist Daniel Mujahid, and other friends TBA.

The Cavern Club
210 S. First St. 913–8890

This downtown basement club in the Celebration Cellars banquet space features occasional live music, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. There is also sometimes music in the street-level Millennium Club and the 2nd-floor Circus Bar & Billiards. Also, karaoke in the Circus, Wed. & Thurs. 8 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m., and a DJ in the Millennium Club, Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (except for age 21 & older), dancing. **May 3: "The Big Hair Big Mouth Big Fat Fun Show."** Cabaret-style drag show starring former Miss Gay American **Jennifer Foxx** and featuring **Hershae Chocolatae** and **The Ladies of Illusion.** In the Millennium Club. 10:30 p.m. & midnight. **May 3: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. **May 10: "The Big Hair Big Mouth Big Fat Fun Show."** See above. In the Millennium Club. 10:30 p.m. & midnight. **May 18: Killer Flamingos.** See above.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main 665–2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30–10 p.m. and Mon., Thurs., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Fri. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.: Shaun Gareth Walker.** Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **May 2: Thomas Scanlon.** Upbeat pop from the 70s to contemporary hits by this singer-guitarist and computerized one-man band from Allen Park. **May 4: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by these local brothers. **May 9: The Kreelers Duo.** Celtic folk-rock fusion by 2 members of this Detroit-area quintet. **May 11:** TBA. **May 16:** TBA. **May 18: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **May 23: Jerry Sprague.** Veteran local roots-rock singer-guitarist. **May 25:** TBA. **May 30: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main 665–9468

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8:30–10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **May 3: Kylee Phillips.** Pop-folk singer-songwriter and pianist from Plymouth known for her intimate performing style and probingly personal lyrics. **May 4: Derek Daniel.** Acoustic folk, blues, and rock covers and originals by this Ypsilanti singer-guitarist. **May 10: Ghost City Searchlight.** *See review, opposite.* See Mark's Carts. **May 11: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **May 17: Spencer Michaud.** Local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist whose music blends Motown, Tin Pan Alley, and folk. **May 18: The Potter's Field.** Americana roots duo of singer-songwriters Rochelle Clark of Chelsea and John Natiw of Canton that's known for its gritty poetic lyrics, powerful vocal harmonies, and driving instrumental work on acoustic and electric guitar, mandolin, harmonica, typical and non-typical percussion elements, and the occasional kazoo. **May 24: Ellen Fedon-Keyt.** Detroit urban folk singer-songwriter with a big, warm voice whose story songs explore social issues, relationships, and spiritual journeys. She is accompanied by **Deb Fedon-Keyt** on cajón (a box-shaped percussion instrument) and harmony vocals. **May 25: The Hackwells.** Local acoustic trio, formerly known as Gather Round, whose original ballads draw on pop-rock, retro-country, and Americana influences. **May 31: Chris Degnore.** Blues-flavored pop-rock singer-songwriter from Detroit.

Creekside Grill and Bar
5827 Jackson Rd. 827–2737

The intimate basement bar in this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **May 26: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. With vocalists Jim Tarravantes and Patty O'Connor. Tonight's program focuses on the music of composer-arranger and pianist **Billy Strayhorn,** best known for his collaborations with Duke Ellington. 6:30–9 p.m.

The Elks Lodge
220 Sunset 761–7172

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features soul food and live jazz, blues, & rock Thurs.–Sat. 6–10 p.m. Also, DJs, Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, usually no cover except for DJ shows. Members and guests welcome. **Every Thurs.: The Glimpses Duo/Trio/Quartet/Quintet.** Modern jazz and improvised music by a variable cast of local musicians led by alto, tenor, and baritone saxophonist Dan Bennett. **Every Fri.: Tim Haldeman Trio.** Blues- and bebop-based jazz in a variety of styles and forms by this local ensemble led by saxophonist Haldeman. With bassist Dave Sharp and percussionist Dan Piccolo. **Every Sat.** TBA.

Guy Hollerin's
3600 Plymouth Rd. 769–9800

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. & occasional Fri., 8 p.m.–midnight. If tickets are available in advance, they are sold at the restaurant. **May 4: Chef Chris & the Rumpshakers.** Local blues band led by vocalist and blues harpist Chef Chris Sirvinskis. **May 11: Motor City Josh & the Big Three.** Detroit blues band led by guitar virtuoso Josh Ford. **May 18: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **May 25:** No music.

The Habitat Lounge
3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs. 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m., along with jazz Sun. 7–11 p.m. Also, DJ Mon., 7 p.m.–midnight, and solo pianists Tues.–Sun., 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: James Cornelison Quartet.** Jazz originals and standards by this U-M music student ensemble led by electric guitarist Cornelison. **May 1 & 2: Scotty Alexander Duo.** Pop-rock covers by everyone from Elton John and Lionel Richie to Matchbox Twenty and Kings of Leon by this duo led by Brighton singer-pianist Alexander. **May 3: Pout.** Dynamic funk party band from Cleveland fronted by vocalists

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase
314 East Liberty Ann Arbor
If you live to laugh, life is here

Billy Ray Bauer
May 2 3 4

Detroit favorite
"Bob & Tom Show"
"Night Shift"

Jackie Kashian
May 9 10 11

NBC's "Last Comic Standing"
VH1
A&E "Comedy on the Road"
"Comedy Central Presents"
"Stand Up Showdown"
"Standup in Stilettos"
"Maria Bamford : The Special Special"
and this year - her first appearance on "Conan."

Dave Landau
May 17 & 18

HBO's Las Vegas Comedy Festival
Comedy Central
"Last Comic Standing"
Sirius/XM Radio.

Geoff Tate
May 24 & 25

One of our favorites from Comedy Central
"The Bob and Tom Show"
"The Late Late Show"
The film
"A Strange Brand of Happy."

Johnny Beehner
May 31 - June 1

XM/ Sirius Satellite
"The Bob and Tom Show"
Trained at Second City

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Fri. and Sat. - 8 & 10:30pm

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Michelle Romary and Teddy Wallingford. **May 4: The Breakers.** Veteran local classic rock band that plays 60s–80s covers. **May 7–9: Acoustic Rewind.** 80s and 90s pop covers by this Detroit acoustic duo. **May 10 & 11: Remedy.** Detroit dance band. **May 14 & 15: Darren Metz & Danny Colfer Duo. May 16: Diversity.** Top 40 dance band. **May 17 & 18: The Front Men.** Detroit vintage-rock band. **May 21–23: Slice.** East Lansing pop dance quartet. **May 24 & 25: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **May 28–30: Scotty Alexander Duo.** See above. **May 31: Dr. Smith.** Detroit classic rock quintet.

LIVE
102 S. First St. **623–1443**

This lounge, recently remodeled and under new management, features live music Fri. happy hour 6:30–9 p.m. and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **May 3: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis and Steve Earle. 6:30–9 p.m. **May 10: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everyone from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. With guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **May 11: "Let's Get Weird Variety Show."** Monthly variety show with local music, dance, theater, poetry, and sketch comedy. **May 17: The Vibratrons.** All-star band led by veteran local rocker Dan Mulholland, the charismatic former leader of the Watusis and several other great local rock 'n' roll bands. Its repertoire includes everything from garage rock and blues to country and folk, along with more ballads than Mulholland usually essays. With guitarist Brian Delaney, keyboardist Andy Adamson, bassist Jerry Hancock, and drummer Rich Dishman. 6:30–9 p.m. **May 24: The Rhythm Machines.** A mix of classic rock, soul, funk, R&B, and jazz fusion by this local quartet. With guest drummer Muruga Booker, a renowned percussionist who has played with the likes of George Clinton, Jerry Garcia, and Weather Report. 6–9:30 p.m. **May 31: Drivin' Sideways.** See above. 6:30–9 p.m.

Mark's Carts Courtyard
211 W. Washington **224–8859**

This outdoor food cart gallery next to Downtown Home & Garden features live music (weather permitting) Fri., 7–9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **May 3: Ghost City Searchlight.** *See review, p. 50.* Dearborn postpunk Celtic-Americana fusion quartet. **May 10, 17, 24, & 31:** TBA.

Mash
211 E. Washington **222–4095**

This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Thurs.–Sat., and occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Occasional weekend happy hour music, 6–9 p.m. DJs on Wed., 10 p.m.–1 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **May 2: Broken Arrow Blues Band.** Detroit-area blues band. **May 3: Dan Orcutt & Rob Crozier.** Jazz-fueled acoustic folk-rock by the local duo of singer-songwriter and guitarist Orcutt and bassist Crozier. 6–9 p.m. **May 3: Nobody's Business.** Redford blues and blues-rock band. **May 4: Mike Vial.** Howell pop-rock singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **May 4: Erich Goebel & The Flying Crowbars.** Detroit blues and blues-rock quartet led by singer-guitarist Goebel and featuring drummer RJ Spangler, bassist Chris Rummell, and pianist Shawn McDonald. **May 9: Laith Al-Saadi Trio.** Soulful rock and blues covers and originals by a trio led by award-winning local singer-guitarist Al-Saadi. With bassist David Stearns and drummer Griffin Bastian. **May 10: Logan White.** Local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **May 10: The Chris Canas Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by Canas, a young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist. **May 11: Robert Johnson.** Solo acoustic folk and blues by this Northville singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **May 11: The HouseRockers.** Local party quintet that plays 60s rock, blues, and soul. **May 16: Cold Tone Harvest.** Plymouth acoustic roots music trio led by singer-songwriter Andrew Sigworth. **May 17: Robert Johnson Blues Band.** Northville band that plays blues-rock originals and traditional blues. **May 18: The Blues Owls.** Blues band led by singer-blues harpist Bob Bedard, a Dexter psychologist. **May 23: Laith Al-Saadi Trio.** See above. **May 24: The Canastas.** Local quintet that plays vintage jump blues, rockabilly, and rock 'n' roll. **May 25: The Chris Canas Blues Revolution.** See above. **May 30: Nobody's Business.** See above. **May 31: Robert Johnson.** See above. 6:30–9 p.m. **May 31: Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies.** Local roots-rock quartet, led by former Starlight Drifters singer-guitarist Mack, whose repertoire includes originals and rockabilly, early rock 'n' roll, western swing, and hillbilly bop covers.

Melange Subterranean Bistro
314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music Thurs., 8 p.m.–midnight. Also, DJs Fri. & –Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.: Gwenyth Hayes Duo.** Jazz-soul fusion by this duo fronted by Hayes, local singer-songwriter and bassist whose music ranges from sultry jazz ballads and neo-soul arrangements to funk grooves and down-and-dirty blues.

The Necto
516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 6 nights a week, Mon.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover, dancing.

Old Town
122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **May 5: Rolling Tussing.** Blues-oriented vocalist and guitar virtuoso, former Ann Arborite who now lives in Portland (OR). **May 12: Bob Skon Trio.** Folk-rock covers and originals by this trio led by Skon, a local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **May 19: Dave Boutette.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-guitarist whose genial songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Paul Westerberg. **May 26: Chad Williams & the Lonesome Plowboys.** Twangy country-folk singer-songwriter, a former WCBN DJ and local alt-country impresario who now lives in Seattle.

Oz's Music Environment
1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **May 7: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **May 28: "Ukulele Jam."** Musicians of all ability levels invited.

The Ravens Club
207 S. Main **214–0400**

This downtown bar & grill features live music, Wed. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight. and Sun. 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Ron Brooks Trio.** Mainstream bebop-rooted jazz by this trio led by veteran local bassist Brooks. With pianist Tad Weed and drummer George Davidson. **Every Thurs.: Alex Belhaj New Orleans Trio.** Local ensemble led by guitarist Belhaj that plays a range of New Orleans jazz styles, from struts, stomps, cakewalks, and rags to pop tunes, marches, and classical favorites. **Every Sun.: Heather Black Project.** Vintage jazz and blues by an ensemble led by Heather Schwartz, a talented local singer whose vocal style also reflects gospel, R&B, soul, and hip-hop influences.

Rush Street
314 S. Main **913–0330**

This martini lounge features nightly DJs, along with live music, Sun. 10 p.m.–2 a.m., and occasional other nights. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: Legendary Wings.** Local jazz quintet that focuses on dynamic, challenging, and less commonly heard music from the modern jazz repertoire interspersed with free improvisation. The usual lineup features saxophonists Dan Bennett and Tim Haldeman, Fender Rhodes electric pianist Matt Endahl, bassist Jordan Shug, and drummer Nick Collins. **May 3: "Sesi Motors/ WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series."** With an ensemble led by bassist **Robert Hurst,** a U-M jazz professor, a former member of both Wynton Marsalis's ensemble and the Tonight Show Band who has recorded with Paul McCartney and Chris Botti. He has a brand-new CD on his Bebob label, *BoB: A Palindrome.*

Silvio's Organic Pizza
715 North University **214–6666**

This campus-area restaurant features live music Thurs. & Sun. 6–8 p.m., Fri. 7–9 p.m., Sat. 7–8 p.m., and occasional other nights. Swing dancing to a DJ Wed. 11 p.m.–12:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: Neal Anderson Quintet.** Local jazz ensemble led by trumpeter Anderson. **Every Sat.: DaVinci.** Local composer-pianist, the winner of the 2010 U-M New Music on the Block competition, whose music ranges in style from classical and jazz to Argentine tango and Persian piano music. **Every Sun.: Will Mefford.** Improvisations on jazz standards by this local pianist. **May 3: J. Washburb Gardner.** Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter. Opening act is **Ebb Tide,** a local folksy Americana trio. **May 10: Mixed Nuts.** Acoustic covers and originals by this Chelsea trio. **May 17: Steve Rich & Tim Prosser.** The local duo of singer-guitarist Rich and singer-songwriter and "mandolin maniac" Prosser perform a mix of acoustic originals and traditional music. Also, a guest musician TBA. **May 24:** TBA. **May 31: Johnny Walker & the Spare Parts.** Classic roots music and Americana by this local band led by veteran singer-saxophonist Walker.

Tap Room
201 W. Michigan
Ypsilanti **482–5320**

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music most Wed. 7–11 p.m., Thurs. 8 p.m.–midnight, & Sat. and occasional Fri. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, DJ with Latin dance music, Wed. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **May 4: Arbor Music Center Kids Showcase.** Young musicians perform pop and rock covers. 6–8 p.m. **May 4: The Martindales.** See above. **May 11: The Paths.** Local indie rock quintet. Opening act TBA.. **May 18: Blues Dog Inquisition.** Hard-driving classic Chicago blues by this Ypsilanti quintet. **May 25:** TBA.

Tios
401 E. Liberty **761–6650**

This popular Mexican cafe features live music Fri. 10 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Cover, dancing. **May 3: Steve Jeroz.** Flamenco quartet led by Detroit guitarist Jeroz. **May 10: Los Gatos.** Salsa music by this popular local Latin jazz band led by drummer Pete Siers. **May 17 & 24: Tumbao Bravo.** Cuban jazz quintet led by local saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. **May 31: Los Gatos.** See above.

Vinology
110 S. Main **222–9841**

This wine bar and restaurant features live jazz, Sun. 6–8 p.m. and occasional Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). **Every Sun.: Marsha Mumm.** Blues, jazz, and pop standards, along with some originals, by this local singer-songwriter, guitarist, and pianist.

Wolverine State Brewing Co.
2019 W. Stadium **369–2990**

This west side brewpub features live music, Tues. 8 p.m.–midnight & some weekends, 8:30 p.m.–12:15 a.m. Cover, dancing. **May 2: The Moxie Strings.** Local Celtic-Americana string trio formerly known as String Cheese. **May 4: Wire in the Wood.** Local string trio that describes its music as "a mind-melting quasi-bluegrass/swing/punkfolk." **May 7: Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys.** Lansing swing-flavored bluegrass band led by singer-guitarist Lindsay Lou Rilko that has released its 2nd CD, *Release Your Shrouds.* **May 9: Tone Farmers.** Two members of the Macpodz, bassist Brennan Andes and trumpeter Ross Huff are joined by a variety of guest musicians for a jam session featuring jazz-based originals and covers of an eclectic array of American music classics. **May 14: Grace Adele & the Grand Band.** Nashville-based Americana band led by singer-songwriter Adele whose music draws on classic country, western swing, bluegrass, folk, and contemporary indie rock idioms. **May 21: Dede & the Dreamers.** Self-styled "ethereal gypsy music" by this Traverse City ensemble led by singer-songwriter and vibraphonist Dede Alderman. **May 25: The Ben Daniels Band.** Chelsea Americana folk-rock quintet led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Daniels, whose influences range from Robert Johnson to Dylan to Jack White. **May 28: Madcat Midnight Blues Journey.** New local quartet led by 2 veteran virtuosos, nationally renowned harmonica wiz Peter Madcat Ruth and pedal steel guitarist Drew "Captain Midnight" Howard. With bassist Mark Schrock and drummer Michael Shimmin. Its repertoire includes obscure blues tunes, folk and jazz melodies, and original compositions.

Woodruff's
36 E. Cross
Ypsilanti **483–2800**

This club in Ypsilanti's Depot Town features live music Tues. 8–11 p.m., and Wed., Fri., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, karaoke on Thurs. 10 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover (except Tues.), dancing. **Every Tues.: "Acoustic Open Mike."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter **Erik Santos. May 1: Alcoholic Oracles.** Concord (MI) country-based blues-rock duo. Opening acts are **Kyle Brown,** an acoustic blues and rock fingerstyle guitarist from Lansing, and **Mistaken for Satellites,** a Flint alternative rock quintet. **May 3: Wax Kings!** Ypsilanti hip-hop DJ collective. Opening acts TBA. **May 4:** TBA. **May 5: "Boylesque."** Drag show. **May 8: Champions of Breakfast.** Detroit electro-pop glam band. Opening acts are **The Marietta** (see Blind Pig), the Ypsilanti hip-hop collective **Green Sky Productions,** and the Flint alternative rock quartet **Brother Apollo. May 10: "May Days Festival."** With the local retro garage rock 'n' roll band **The Beggars,** the Detroit experimental hip-hop ensemble **Passalacqua,** the local alt-country honky-tonk and rockabilly band **Ryan Racine & Gas for Less,** the Detroit retro hard-rock quartet **Let's Scare Mary to Death,** the Detroit indie surf-pop trio **The Philter,** the Detroit postpunk rock 'n' roll quartet **All the Wild Children,** the Hamtramck crunk band **Pewter Cub,** the Detroit experimental garage rock band **Odd Hours,** and the Detroit rock band **Pretty Ghouls.** 8 p.m.–2 a.m. **May 11: Dragon Wagon.** Highly regarded local acoustic roots-music sextet that calls its music "bluegrass folk-rock with a touch of Irish whiskey." Opening acts are **BlackJack on Pluto,** a local postpunk folk-rock quartet, and **Old Foresters,** a Mount Pleasant quartet that lays an eclectic mix of roots rock, country, bluegrass, and jazz. **May 12: Simple Machine.** Local alternative pop-rock quintet. Opening acts are the Pinckney experimental psychedelic-rock quintet **Boherald, Kreation,** and the Detroit acoustic Celtic rock duo **Shattered Sky. May 14: Deniz Tek.** Postpunk rock 'n' roll band led by this Ann Arbor native who made a name for himself in the 70s as the leader of the pioneering Australian punk band Radio Birdman. Opening acts are the southern California punk-rock band **Godoy Brothers, Blue Snaggletooth** (see below), the Ypsilanti Detroit-style rock 'n' roll trio **Disinformants,** and **Cactusk,** a local rock trio that calls its music "catchy noise." **May 15: Algernon.** Westland-area arena rock band. Opening acts are the Livonia rock 'n' roll band **5th Wall Concept,** the Grand Rapids grungy blues-rock quartet **Devin & the Dead Frets,** the Ypsilanti indie folk collective **Walk Your Bike,** and the local hardcore band **The Wild Ones. May 17: The Afternoon Round.** Local Americana rock band. Opening acts are **Gold,** a Toledo funk-soul dance band, and **Flashing Blue Lights,** a Grand Rapids indie folk-rock duo. **May 18: "Elbow Deep."** Drag show and gay and lesbian dance night hosted by Maxi and Jennifer of the House of Chanel, with a DJ TBA. **May 19: Mitch Bradford.** Local rock 'n' roll singer originally from Brownsville (TX). Opening acts are the Washington, D.C., psychedelic blues-rock band **Paperhaus, Cold Tone Harvest** (see Mash), and the Ypsilanti indie rock band **The Vagrant Symphony. May 22: Red Stone Souls.** Detroit psychedelic blues-rock garage quartet. Opening acts are **The Ryan Yunck Band,** a local progressive metal-rock fusion band, and **The MadHouse Gossip,** an Ypsilanti rock trio. **May 24: Alexis.** Grand Rapids synth-pop duo. **May 25: Sisters of Your Sunshine Vapor.** Local psychedelic-blues garage quartet. Opening acts are the Detroit rock quartet **Nam Nook & the Typhoon,** the local horn-driven retro funk octet **Third Coast Kings,** and the Monroe blues-rock band **Cetan Clawson. May 26: Paul Samotis.** Detroit pop-folk singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist. Opening acts are **Native Signal,** a Detroit acoustic alt-country quartet, and **Erik the Viking,** a Rochester (MN) singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist whose engaging story songs draw on a mix of folk, old-time, blues, jazz, and hip-hop musical idioms. **May 29: Blue Snaggletooth.** Local rock band that includes members of Mazinga and other area bands. Opening acts are the Ypsilanti minimalist hardcore band **Minus9,** the local stoner doom metal trio **Wizard Union,** and **Las Drogas,** an Ypsilanti band that plays loud, raucous, melodic, bluesy, surf-guitar psychobilly. **May 31: Nicole P'Simer.** Livonia acoustic folk-soul singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Dave Johnson,** an Ypsilanti singer-songwriter, and **Treading Bleu,** a Kalamazoo indie folk-rock quartet.

Zal Gaz Grotto
2070 W. Stadium **663–1202**

This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sun. 5–8 p.m., Mon. 7:30–10:15 p.m., Tues. 5:30–8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger.

May Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **By phone:** 769–3175
- **By mail:** Katie Whitney, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **By fax:** 769–3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to annarborobserver.com).

AnnArborObserver.com:

An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at **AnnArborObserver.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on annarborobserver.com.

arbormail:

Get your alerts by email—send a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at annarborobserver.com/arbormail_help.html.

★ *Denotes a free event.*

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.annarborobserver.com

1 WEDNESDAY

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Tues. & Wed.* Stories and songs for kids ages 2–5 (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered at the Traverwood (Tues., 11–11:30 a.m.; Wed., 6–6:30 p.m.; & Thurs., 10–10:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (Wed. 10–10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs. 7–7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *11–11:30 a.m. (Wed.) & 10–10:30 a.m. (Tues.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops. *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. 369–3107.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs.* All ages invited to play non-sanctioned (Mon.) and ACBL-sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs.) duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. *Noon–3:45 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.) & 12:30–4 p.m. (Mon.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $7 (members, $6) on Wed. & Thurs., $3 (members, $2) on Mon. 794–6250.*

★Chess: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center. *Every Wed.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★"Kids Art Fair": Ann Arbor District Library. *Apr. 28 and May 1 & 5.* All kids in grades K–8 invited to submit artwork to be included in a juried Kids Art Fair at the Townie Street Party on July 15. Bring samples of your work and be prepared to talk to judges. *5–7 p.m. (May 1) & 1–3 p.m. (Apr. 28 & May 5), AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

Heidelberg Charity Poker Room. *Daily.* Texas Hold 'Em and blackjack for players of all levels. Also, Hold 'Em tournaments at 7 p.m. Wed., Fri., & Sat. Free dinner, 5–6 p.m., and other nightly spe-

Cassie Mann stars in Redbud's production of *A Small Fire* May 30–June 1.

FILMS

61 Film Screenings — *John Hinchey & Katie Whitney*

GALLERIES

68 Exhibit Openings — *Katie Whitney*

57 Circus *at Gallery Project* — *Stephanie Douglass*

EVENTS REVIEWS

59 Cobblestone Farm Spring Fling
S'mores and more — *Frances Kai-Hwa Wang*

64 33 Variations
You can dance to it. — *Sally Mitani*

70 Grant-Lee Phillips
Continuing evolution — *James M. Manheim*

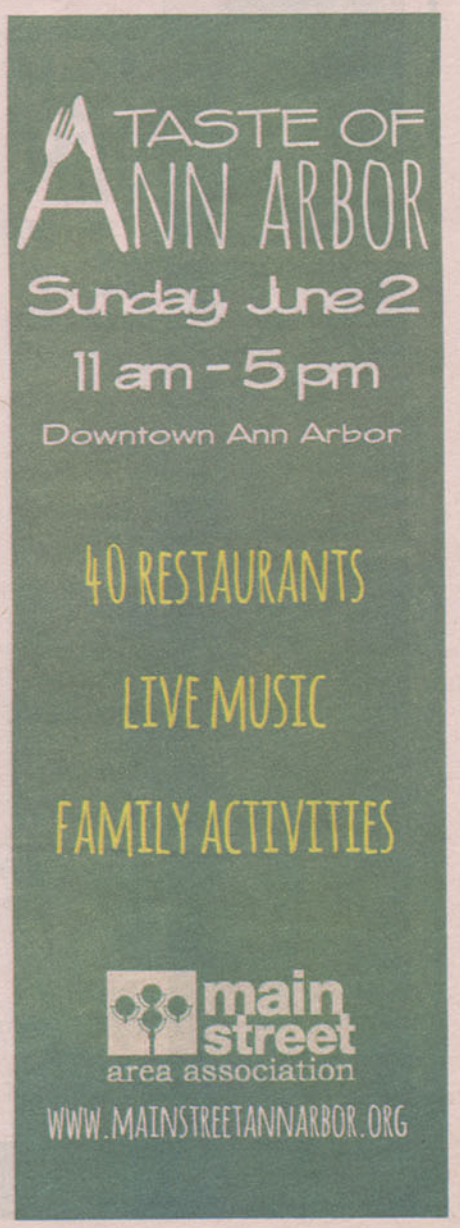
73 Shinyribs
Roots sounds and verbal acrobatics — *James M. Manheim*

77 Jack Ridl and Chris Dombrowski
Teacher / student — *Keith Taylor*

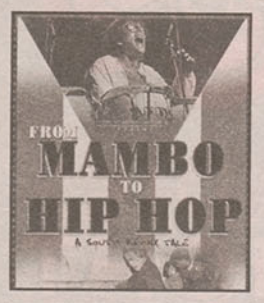
79 *L'Histoire du Soldat* and *Pierrot Lunaire*
Stravinsky meets Schoenberg. — *Sandor Slomovits*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

50 Nightspots — *John Hinchey*
Ghost City Searchlight — *Chris Berggren*



may 2013 event highlights
Ann Arbor District Library

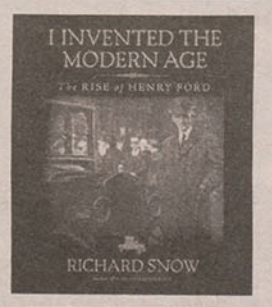


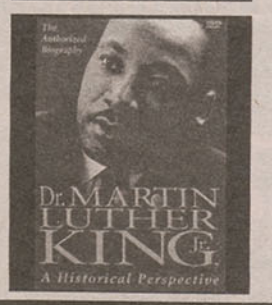
Vision Screening

Barbara Wisse

Lynn Rivers

Keith Taylor • May 18





Events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday **1**
6:30 - 8:30 pm

AMERICA'S MUSIC FILM & DISCUSSION • Latin Rhythms From Mambo To Hip Hop • Music scholar **Mark Clague** leads a screening and discussion focusing on the films ***Latin Music USA***, Episode One: ***Bridges*** and ***From Mambo to Hip Hop: A South Bronx Tale*** • *America's Music is a project by the Tribeca Film Institute in collaboration with the American Library Association, Tribeca Flashpoint, and the Society for American Music. America's Music has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor.*

Wednesday **1**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

University of Michigan Open Forum on Diabetes Prevention, Treatment and Cure • Engage with a panel of UM Health System diabetes experts • **MALLETTS CREEK BRANCH**

Friday **3**
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Cinema Night Special: Fresh Takes on Animated Films and Live Music • The Oscar-winning short, ***The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore***, followed by a live performance by **Cash Harrison & The Terrible Decisions** and the 80-minute Czech feature film, ***Alois Nebel***

Saturday **4**
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

MAY IS HEALTHY VISION MONTH • Vision Screenings for All Ages
DOWNTOWN 4TH FLOOR • INFANT - ADULT

Sunday **5**
3:00 - 4:00 pm

***The Sleeping Beauty* Performed by Detroit Puppet Theater**
An enchanting tale by the PuppetART troupe • **GRADE 3 - ADULT**

Tuesday **7**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Dr. Joel Young Discusses Medication and Adult ADHD
PITTSFIELD BRANCH

Wednesday **8**
6:30 - 8:30 pm

AMERICA'S MUSIC FILM & DISCUSSION • *A Space For Music, A Seat For Everyone: 100 Years of UMS Performances In Hill Auditorium* • UM Musicologist **Mark Clague** and filmmaker **Sophia Kruz** lead a discussion after the screening

Friday **10**
7:00 - 8:00 pm

AMERICA'S MUSIC CONCERT • A Salute to Broadway with **Barbara Wisse & Mark Kahny**

Monday **13**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Lynn Rivers Discusses *"The End of The Constitution?"*
The former Michigan State Representative discusses issues such as government surveillence and separation of powers

Saturday **18**
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

The 2013 German-American Gaming League International Championships! • **DT 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM • GRADES 6 - 12**

Saturday **18**
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

POETRY WORKSHOP • Mad Libs Poetry Session with the Made In Michigan Writers Series Poets • It's creative (and potentially absurd) fun when you team up with a celebrated poet and create a one-of-a-kind poem! • **GRADE 4 - ADULT**

Monday **20**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Ice Cream Bike: A Sneak Peek at Go! Ice Cream • It's an all new mobile business! • **MALLETTS CREEK BRANCH • GRADE 6 - ADULT**

Monday **20**
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Richard Snow Discusses His Newly-Released Book, *I Invented The Modern Age: The Rise of Henry Ford*

Wednesday **22**
7:00 - 8:15 pm

FILM • *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Historical Perspective*
NOT RATED • Held in conjunction with Performance Network's production of Katori Hall's new play, *The Mountaintop*

Tuesday **28**
6:30 - 9:00 pm

Purple Rose Theatre Presents a Concert Reading of Their Upcoming Play, *Miles & Ellie* • Artistic Director **Guy Sanville** leads an audience talk-back after a reading of the new comedy by Don Zolidis, author of *White Buffalo*

For more information: 327.4200 or aadl.org

aadl.org

cials. Net proceeds donated to a different charity each week. *5 p.m.–2 a.m., Heidelberg (3rd floor), 215 N. Main. $10–$500 buy-in to play poker, $2–$20 per hand blackjack, $40 buy-in for Hold 'Em tournaments. 834–2237.*

★Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers. *Every Wed.* All invited to play this popular word game. Bring a set if you have one. Regulars, including Michael Betzold, author of *Bingo: The Secret to Scrabble Success,* offer strategy tips. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing Co., 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

★"West Side Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Wed.* Slow/moderate-paced 25-mile ride and a slow-paced ride, 13–18 miles, to the Dexter Dairy Queen and back. Now in its 36th year, this ride is a favorite with newcomers and casual riders. Other Wed. rides: **"Early Morning Ride from Ann Arbor West Side"** (9 a.m., Bird Hills Park parking lot, Newport Rd., 649–9762), a moderate-paced 40-mile ride to Chelsea or Whitmore Lake and beyond. **"Superior Salem Dirt Road"** *(9 a.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church parking lot, Gotfredson Rd. at Ann Arbor–Plymouth Rd., 663–5060, 248–437–5067, 998–8960),* a slow/moderate-paced ride, 19 miles or more, along gravel country roads. *6 p.m. sharp, meet at Paladin parking lot, 2800 N. Zeeb Rd. Free. 426–5116 (longer ride), 665–4552 & 761–2659 (shorter ride).*

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun. & Tues.–Fri.* All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using standard constructed (Sun. & Thurs.), Elder Dragon Highlander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), and booster draft (Fri.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Fri.). *6 p.m. (Tues.–Fri.) & 1 p.m. (Sun.), Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. $5 (Tues., free; Fri., $15 includes cards). 786–3746.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline west of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) $6 per person. 623–8050.*

★"33 Minutes": Nicola's Books. Evanston (IL) writer **Todd Hasak-Lowy** discusses his new tween novel about an epic showdown between a brainy 7th grader and his former best friend, now a popular athlete, who has promised to beat him up at recess. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★"Diabetes Prevention, Treatment, and Cure": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to participate in a public forum led by U-M Health System experts TBA. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4555.*

★Health Talks: Nutritional Healing Center. *May 1:* Chiropractor Amanda Childress on **"Detoxify."** *May 13:* Nutritionist Kerry Cradit on **"Lick the Sugar Habit."** *May 23:* Cradit on **"Harmonize Hormones."** *7 p.m., NHC, 3610 W. Liberty. Free. 302–7575.*

Bill Edwards and Whit Hill: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Performance by these 2 veteran singer-songwriters, who also talk about how they wrote their songs. Edwards is a local country singer-songwriter, 1989 winner of the Billboard Country Songwriting Contest, whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown. Hill, a multitalented former Ann Arborite who moved to Nashville a few years ago, writes richly imaginative neobeatnik country-folk originals that are often spiked with her offbeat sense of humor. Edwards and Hill cowrote "What'd I Do," a song featured in the HBO series *True Blood. 7–9 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 12 Jackson, Chelsea. $15 suggested donation. Info: call Annie Capps at 330–5226.*

★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. *Every Wed.* All invited to join a discussion of Rudolf Steiner's *An Outline of Esoteric Science. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 485–3764.*

★History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss Richard Clement's ***Books on the Frontier: Print Culture in the American West, 1763–1875.*** *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★"Remembrance: The Universe of Charles Ives": Kerrytown Concert House. Program of works celebrating the legacy of the iconoclastic American composer, the first to use American vernacular music—folk music, hymns, and pop songs—within European classical structures. Program: Ives' Sonatas for Violin and Piano Nos. 2 and 3, "Remembrance," "Charley Rutlage," and the monumental

"General William Booth Enters into Heaven," as well as Ives-influenced compositions by Hindemith and Bernstein. With U-M piano professor Kathryn Goodson, bassist Stephen West, and DSO members including bass trombonist Randall Hawes, violinists Sheryl Hwangbo and Laurie Landers Goldman, and clarinetist Shannon Orme. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., Mar. 28–June 1.* Guy Sanville directs Moisés Kaufman's drama that shifts between Beethoven in 19th-century Austria, obsessing over a commission he can't complete, and a present-day musicologist who struggles to understand both her daughter and the mystery behind Beethoven's oft-overlooked *Diabelli Variations*. Cast: Michelle Mountain, Melanie Reihing, Michael Brian Ogden, Richard McWilliams, David Bendena, Daniel Britt, Rhiannon Ragland. *8 p.m. (Wed.–Sat.), 3 p.m. (Wed., Sat., & May 30), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $27 (Wed. & Thurs.), $37 (Fri. eves. & weekend matinees), & $42 (Sat. eves.) in advance at purplerosetheatre.org, and by phone. 433–7673.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 1, 8, 16, 23, & 30.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Ryan Halsey hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wed.* Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson. Followed at 11 p.m. by **"Late Night @ Silvio's"** swing dancing (see Nightspots). *9–11 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom (May 1) & Pendleton Room (May 8, 15, 22, & 29), $5 (students, $4; $1 discount for members). 945–8428.*

2 THURSDAY

★"Spring Migration Walk in Nichols Arboretum": Washtenaw Audubon Society. *Every Thurs., Apr. 4–May 23, and May 18.* All invited to join club members for a walk through the Arb to look for resident birds and early migrants, which begin arriving in earnest toward the end of April. *8–11 a.m., meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of Riverview off Geddes. Free. 994–3569.*

★"Spring Unfolding Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Thurs.* Beginner-friendly slow-paced ride, 10–15 miles, around Ann Arbor neighborhoods to explore the delights of local gardens, parks, and cafes. Other Thurs. ride: **"Ann Arbor Thursday Evening C Ride"** *(6 p.m., Fuller Pool parking lot, 717–9583).* Slow-paced ride, 15–25 miles, through North Campus, Barton Hills, and scenic roads north of town. **"Thursday Evening Ride"** *(6:45 p.m., meet at the Fuller Pool parking lot, Fuller Rd., 996–9122),* fast/moderate-paced 25-mile ride around northeast Ann Arbor that includes some good chances to improve your climbing skills. *10 a.m., meet at Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 971–5763, 663–5060.*

Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon & Thurs.* All ages invited to play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Lunch available at 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. ($5.50; age 60 & over, $3; reservations required). *10–11:30 a.m. (Thurs.) & 1–3:30 p.m. (Mon.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★Older Adults Thursday: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* Activities, primarily for seniors, begin at 10 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. **Current Events** discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program TBA. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free, except as noted. 971–0990.*

★"The History of Last Night's Dream": Temple Beth Emeth Spirituality Book Club. *May 2 & 7 (same program).* All invited to join a discussion of Rodger Kamenetz's book that encourages spiritual interpretations of dreams. *Noon–1:30 p.m. (May 2) & 7:30–9 p.m. (May 7), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. cantorannie@gmail.com, 665–4744.*

★Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals. *May 2:* Vintage American pop by **Etcetera.** *May 9:* R&B, Motown, and country by the **Danireé Duo.** *May 16:* Classic jazz by the **Equinox Jazz Trio.** *May 23:* Gospel music by **Our Own Thing Chorale.** *May 30:* Classical music by guitarist **Michael Casher** and soprano **Carrie Wilson.** *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital Main*

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Ele's Place
A healing center for grieving children and teens
6TH ANNUAL SPRING RECEPTION
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013 | 6:00 PM
BARTON HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
ANN ARBOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MIKE HART
Asst. Coach of EMU Football, former Indianapolis Colts player
U of M all-time record holder for rushing yards
EVENT CO-CHAIRS: MAUREEN & KELLY LAFONTAINE
Reservations Required by May 1
$100 minimum contribution each for strolling reception
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ENTER TO WIN A DIAMOND VALUED AT $15,950!
The certified diamond will be hidden within a spectacular display of numbered champagne glasses at Reception.
CONTACT ELE'S PLACE – ANN ARBOR TO ENTER!
SINGLE GLASS - $100 EACH | TRIO OF GLASSES - $250 FOR THREE
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Winner receives keepsake glass and is responsible for tax withholdings.
100% of proceeds will benefit the children of Ele's Place!
Diamond Sponsor: Lewis Jewelers
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Crossing Cultures
The Owen and Wagner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art from the Hood Museum of Art
Ronnie Tjampitjinpa (Pintupi, born c.1943, Wolungurru [Kintore], Western and Central Desert, Northern Territory), Fire Dreaming at Murrunya, 2003. Acrylic on canvas, 183 x 122 cm. Gift of Will Owen and Harvey Wagner, 2011.43.197 © 2013 Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York/VISCOPY, Australia
Toledo Museum of Art
April 12–July 14, 2013
toledomuseum.org
419-255-8000

THE MOUNTAINTOP
Olivier Award-winner for best new play
BY KATORI HALL
STARRING BRIAN MARABLE
DIRECTED BY CARLA MILARCH
"Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
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"Inventive and startlingly moving."
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MAY 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 11 & 12: MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE & FUNDRAISER
A large selection of hanging baskets and containers—perfect for mom—filled with a variety of colors and textures and grown and designed by Matthaei-Nichols staff and volunteers. Also, rhododendron sale. **Hours: Sat. & Sun., 10 am-4:30. Free admission.**

MAY 18 &19: KITCHEN FAVORITES SALE & FUNDRAISER
Herbs, herb containers, & uncommon heirloom vegetables. All proceeds support Cultivating Community and the Campus Farm. Also, herb information, recipes, & more from the Herb Study Group. **Hours: Sat. & Sun., 10 am-4:30. Free admission.**

MAY 19: BONSAI & PENJING GARDEN OPENING
Help celebrate the new home of the Matthaei-Nichols bonsai and penjing collection. Afternoon includes garden tours, traditional Japanese music by Miyabi, Zentangle art workshops, and more. **Hours: 2-5 pm. Free admission.**

U-M MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS: display gardens, natural areas, children's garden, year-round conservatory, wedding venues, education programs, gift shop, meeting spaces, and more.

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May 4-5 • ChelseaShows.com

Western Washtenaw

Home Show

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Booth Information – Info@Integrityshows.com

Lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.

"Flight Night": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. *Every Thurs.* Whole Foods staffers discuss wine. Tastings with cheese and appetizers. Topics include **"Italian Wines for Spring"** (May 2), **"American White Blends"** (May 9), **"South American Reds"** (May 16), **"American Red Blends for Summer"** (May 23), and **"Grilling Wines"** (May 30). *5–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods wine bar, 990 W. Eisenhower, Cranbrook Village shopping center. $17. 997–7500.*

★**Membership Meeting: Slow Food Huron Valley.** Club members discuss their plans for the year and the Ark of Taste, a national catalog of foods in danger of extinction. Also, a potluck (bring a dish to pass & your own tableware). *6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea Train Depot, 125 Jackson, Chelsea. Free. slowfoodhuronvalley.com.*

★**Comhaltas.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *6:30–9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. 255–5310.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thurs.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sun. & Thurs.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.) & 1–6 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

★**"Volcanic History of the Western U.S.: Catastrophic Eruptions and Mineral Treasures": Huron Hills Lapidary and Mineral Society.** Screening of a video. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

"Take a Hike!": Ann Arbor District Library. A city natural area preservation staff naturalist leads a hike through the popular 147-acre **Bird Hills Nature Area** to look for its plentiful wildlife and learn about ecological restoration. *7–8:30 p.m., meet in the parking lot off Newport just north of M-14. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Finding and Organizing Recipes Using Pinterest": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staff show how to create and manage recipe-based image collections using this pinboard-style photo-sharing website. *7–9 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch training center, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Living Together": Nicola's Books.** National Book Award–winning writer **Gloria Whelan** discusses her new collection of short stories, from the Made in Michigan writers series, that explore the unexpected and sometimes amazing ways we live together. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. *May 2–4.* Encore artistic director Dan Cooney stars in a concert featuring music from Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's pop opera chronicling Eva Peron's rise from poverty to political power. *7 p.m. (May 2), 8 p.m. (May 3 & 4), & 3 p.m. (May 4), Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets $25 in advance at theencoretheatre.org and at the door. 268–6200.*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead Israeli dancing to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. *7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 (students, free). 395–4223.*

★**30th Anniversary Concert: Ypsilanti Community Choir.** *See Up Front, p. 11.* Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs this 60-member choir in a program highlighted by *Liberator,* local composer Karl Osterland's work, commissioned for the occasion, that was inspired by the Willow Run Bomber Plant's manufacture of the WWII B–24 "Liberator." YCC alumni are invited to sing along to "With a Voice of Singing," one of the group's signature songs. *7:30 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 North River, Ypsilanti. Free, but donations welcome. 481–9285.*

★**"World Travels": Washtenaw Community Concert Band.** Chris Heidenreich directs this 70-member volunteer ensemble in works from around the world. The program is highlighted by music from Bizet's *Carmen,* with flute soloist Beth Wondolowski. The band is joined by the Whitmore Lake High School Band for a finale of Kalinnikov's Symphony in G minor. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 252–9221.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Apr. 25–June 2.* Carla Milarch directs the Michigan premiere of Katori Hall's 2010 Olivier Award–winning drama,

gallery review

Circus

Art from under the Big Top

In the pursuit of thrills, circuses have ranged from the breathtaking heights of aerial acrobats and human cannonballs to the sordid depths of overworked, abused animals and sideshow ignominy. This colorful and complex spectacle past and present is impressively curated in the work of twenty-five regional, national, and international artists in Gallery Project's current exhibit, *Circus.*

Traditional circuses used cruel methods to train their animal performers. The mistreatment of elephants is the focus of two works by the respected English illustrator Sue Coe. *She Packed Her Trunk and Said Goodbye to the Circus*—a darkly witty woodcut depicting an elephant waving "So long!" to a whip-cracking trainer—inverts our longstanding vision of escape by running away *to* the circus. It also raises the question of who's tame and who's savage, a dichotomy sharply rendered in Toronto artist Jamiyla Lowe's silkscreen *Skipping Bear.* With a muzzled bear squeezed between two sneering performers turning a jump rope, it's a startling, powerful clash of worlds and characters, like seeing a beloved Maurice Sendak character escorted through the streets of Gotham City.

At its laziest, the circus peddles variation, mutation, and disfigurement in the forms of pickled oddities and "freaks," a theme seared into the works of Colorado multimedia artist Pamela Joseph. Her engrossing wall installation *The Hundred Headless Women* includes many wooden kitchen cutting boards burned with images of disembodied female heads and headless bodies, gals being sawed in half, and lady-animal hybrids. Sliced and diced and prepared for our consumption, these women are, paradoxically enough, smiling and defenseless, a quietly unsettling feature that also alludes to conditions of violence, oppression, and helplessness. More sideshow performers are on view in a pair of digital photo montages by Bowling Green State University art professor Lou Krueger, whose stomach-twisting curiosities win my award for Most Bizarre and Disturbing.

"Clown with Midget" by Robert Sites

Squirrel Man and *Girl Alive* feature gold-skinned, stitched-together subjects whose direct gaze confronts us and demands that we see past their mutilations.

This upending of the staid, commonplace world finds its most gratifying expression in the fantastic feats of circus performers. Highly trained, committed to their craft, they get their due share of appreciation in Madison Heights photographer Spilt Sugar's vivid, dynamic photographs of several Detroit circus performers, as well as Michigan artist Seder Burns' multifaceted 3-D photo sculpture *Titano the Strongman.*

Still not astonished? Step right up and see Netherlands sculptor Sylvia B.'s compelling *Noir de Nocturne,* a photo of a monkey pulling a rabbit out of a hat! Be amazed by artist, musician, and filmmaker C. Ryder Cooley's eerie and enchanting *Animalia: Stories of Collapse, Calamity and Departure,* both a handmade artist's book and an animated film about a girl's transformation into a deer creature. That, and more than a dozen other works sure to bewilder and delight.

The exhibit runs through May 5.

—Stephanie Douglass

set in Martin Luther King's Memphis hotel on the eve of his assassination, about the relationship that develops between King and a talkative motel maid who shows up on his doorstep and begins to challenge the efficacy of his leadership. Stars Brian Marable and Carollette Phillips. The May 19 performance is preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a "Cultural Conversation" ($10; reservations suggested) with the director, designers, and cast. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 2 p.m. (Sun.), & 3 p.m. (May 11 & 25), Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (Apr. 25), $22 (Apr. 26 & 28 & May 2), and $30 (Apr. 27). May 3 opening night tickets: $39 & $41 includes reception. After May 3: $27 & $29 (Thurs.), $32 & $34 (Fri. & Sun.), $25 & $27 (Sat. matinee), $39 & $41 (Sat. eve.). $3 discount for seniors age 60 & over. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. $10 student discount in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

Jonah Parzen-Johnson, Steven Lugerner, & Matt Endahl: Canterbury House. Triple bill. Brooklyn (NY)-based baritone saxophonist Parzen-Johnson performs *Michiana,* his collection of compositions that are influenced by Appalachian folk music. The *Philadelphia City Paper* says, "His unaccompanied playing captures the sentiment of an old Polaroid, long-ago happiness fading into the melancholy of memory." San Francisco– and NYC-based multi-instrumentalist Lugerner performs originals with improvisation. The *L.A. Times* describes his work as "knotty, patiently developing pieces that can sound reminiscent of classical music or moodily unsettled free improvisation." Local jazz pianist and composer Endahl performs experimental works. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students, $5). 764–3162.*

"Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!": Quality 16. Live videocast of the weekly taping of this popular NPR news-based comedy quiz show hosted by Peter Sagal. With announcer Carl Kasell and guest panelists Paula Poundstone, Mo Rocca, and Tom Bodett. The broadcast is reshown on tape on May 7 at 7:30 p.m. *8 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets $22 (May 2) & $18 (May 7) in advance at gqti.com/waitwait.aspx and at the door. 623–7469.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Billy Ray Bauer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 2–4.* This dynamic Detroit jokester uses a fine repertoire of voices and dialects to tell fresh, lively stories, often drawn from his experiences as the father of 4 boys. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

3 FRIDAY

★**"Whitmore Lake Coffee Break": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Fri.* Slow-paced rides, 19, 24, or 40+ miles, to the Coney Island in Whitmore Lake for a 10:30 a.m. breakfast or early lunch. *9 a.m., Olson Park, Dhu Varren at Pontiac Trail. Free. 476–4944, 996–9461.*

"Mommy & Me Tea": Lamaze Family Center of Ann Arbor. All moms and their kids invited for tea,

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THE MICHIGAN DIFFERENCE

juice, and sandwiches. Also, an opportunity for kids to make a Mother's Day gift. Family photos available. Proceeds benefit the Lamaze Family Center. Geared toward kids ages 2–5. *10 a.m., Lamaze Family Center, 2855 Boardwalk (off Eisenhower between Industrial & State). $15; preregistration required at lamazefamilycenter.org. 973–1014.*

★Temple Beth Emeth Lunch and Learn. *Every Fri.* TBE rabbi Robert Levy leads an informal discussion of the intersection between religion and science. Bring a lunch, if you wish. *Noon–1 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–4744.*

★Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center. *Every Mon. & Fri.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *12:30–4:30 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon., Wed., & Fri. except May 1 & 27.* All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Fri.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard; 1–2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Mon.), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.; & 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch (Wed.), 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Fun Friday": U-M Natural History Museum. With screenings of the 30-minute planetarium show ***Star Talk*** (5:30, 6:30, 7:30, & 8:30 p.m.) about what you can see in the current night sky, a reading of Eric Carle's ***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** (6 & 7 p.m.) with images from the book projected on the planetarium dome, the demo **"Evolution of Whales"** (6 p.m.), and a 30-minute **dinosaur tour** (7 & 8 p.m.). Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Space limited for each event. *5–9 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free admission. Planetarium shows are $3. 764–0478.*

U-M Softball vs. Northwestern. *May 3–5. 6 p.m. (May 3), 2 p.m. (May 4), & 1 p.m. (May 5), Alumni Field (behind Ray Fisher Stadium), S. State at Hoover. $4 (youths age 12 & under, $2; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

U-M Baseball vs. Iowa. *May 3 & 5 (single games) & May 4 (doubleheader).* The May schedule also includes a game vs. **Toledo** (May 8, 6 p.m.) and a 4-game series (with a Sat. doubleheader) vs. **Purdue** (May 10 at 6 p.m., May 11 at 4 p.m., May 12 at 1 p.m.). *6 p.m. (May 3), 4 p.m. (May 4), & 1 p.m. (May 5), Ray Fisher Stadium. $5 (youths age 12 & under, $3; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for dinner, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah, and discussion on a theme TBA. Children welcome. *6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (family, $25). Reservations required at jewishculturalsociety.org. 975–9872.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 332–7964.*

Creative Social Club: Ann Arbor Art Center. All invited to make beaded earrings. No experience necessary. Beverages and materials provided. *7–9 p.m., AAAC, 117 W. Liberty. $35. Preregistration recommended at annarborartcenter.org/events or by phone. 994–8004, ext. 111.*

"7th Annual Bee on Board for Literacy Spelling Bee": Family Learning Institute. All invited to watch as many as 20 3-member teams representing local organizations, nonprofits, and businesses vie for a trophy. (All encouraged to enter a team.) Emcee is U-M drama professor Malcolm Tulip. Proceeds benefit the Family Learning Institute. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and music by the Community High Jazz Band. *7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $35 in advance only at familylearninginstitute.org, by emailing dan@familylearninginstitute.org, and by phone. 730–7463.*

★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. *May 3 & 17.* All invited to join an ongoing discussion of Rudolf Steiner's *An Outline of Occult Science.* Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas is helpful. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 944–4903.*

"Shrek": Pioneer High School Theater Guild. *Apr. 27 & 28 and May 3–5.* Alex Kip directs students in David Lindsay-Abaire and Jeanine Tesori's musical, based on the 2001 film, an appealingly subversive fairy tale about a kindhearted but misanthropic green ogre who's charged with rescuing a princess. The score is an eclectic mix of pop-flavored melodies that range from the jaunty "Travel Song" to the gutsy duet "I Got You Beat." *7:30 p.m. (Apr. 27 and May 3 & 4) & 2 p.m. (Apr. 28 and May 4 & 5), PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Tickets $15 (seniors age 65 & over and students, $10) in advance and at the door. 994–2191.*

"Macbeth": Huron High School Players. *Apr. 26 & 27 and May 3 & 4.* Students perform one of Shakespeare's best-known and most influential tragedies, the bloody tale of a Scottish lord and his ambitious wife. *7:30 p.m., Huron High New Theater, 2727 Fuller. Tickets $8 (students & seniors, $6) in advance and at the door. 994–2095.*

Ballroom Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *May 3 & 17.* Open dancing to recorded music. Preceded at 7 p.m. by **merengue** lessons ($5). The May 17 dance is **jungle-themed;** *Tarzan, Lion King,* and *Jungle Book* costumes encouraged. *8–10 p.m., 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $10 ($15 includes lesson). 409–4480.*

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, MA, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released several acclaimed CDs. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $17 (kids age 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Dave Sharp & the Secret Seven: Kerrytown Concert House. Led by bassist Sharp, this local jazz ensemble plays a mix of jazz, world music, and funk. Tonight they perform songs from their upcoming CD, *WORLDS.* With saxophonist Chris Kaercher, tabla player John Churchville, guitarist Andre Frappier, drummer Gayelynn McKinney, and Elden Kelly, who plays guitar and the oud-like cumbus. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Billy Ray Bauer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Friday Night Swing (& Blues)": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Fri.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. Followed at 11:30 p.m. by blues dancing. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. *9 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. $5 (students with ID, $3; $1 discount for AACTMAD members) includes lessons. 417–9857.*

4 SATURDAY

24th Annual Heart & Sole Fun Run•Walk•Bike": Chelsea Community Hospital. 5- and 10-km and 2-mile runs, 5-km and 2-mile walks, and a 13-mile bike race to benefit the CCH Grace Clinic, a free health care clinic for the uninsured or underinsured in the Chelsea area. Awards. *8:15 a.m. (bike race) & 9:30 a.m. (runs & walks), Chelsea Community Hospital, 775 S. Main, Chelsea. $25 (kids age 13 & under, $15; bike & run combo, $45) in advance by May 2 at chelseaheartandsole.com; $28 (kids age 13 & under, $15; bike & run combo, $50) on race day. The bike races are open to riders age 14 & older. 475–4157.*

★Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. *May 4, 5, 11, & 18.* All invited to help maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes; tools, snacks, & know-how provided. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. *May 4:* **Greenview Nature Area** *(9 a.m.–noon, across from Barnard Rd. on Greenview Rd. off Scio Church Rd. west of S. Seventh St.)* to remove invasive shrubs and spread woodchips on the trails. *May 5:* **Furstenberg Nature Area Native Plant Garden** *(noon–3 p.m., meet in the parking lot off Fuller Rd. across from Huron High School)* to join master gardener Aunita Erskine for her annual spring cleanup and botanical walk. *May 11:* **Bluffs Nature Area** *(9 a.m.–noon, meet in front of 220 Sunset)* to remove garlic mustard, dame's rocket, and other spring invasives. *May 18:* **Annual Downtown Blooms Day** *(9 a.m.–noon, meet at Liberty Plaza)* to help plant flowers throughout the downtown. Followed at noon by a free pizza-and-pop lunch for volunteers. Bring work gloves, brooms, and planting trowels, if you have them. Also, **Adopt-a-Park Kick-Off** *(9 a.m.–noon, various city parks—info at 794–6627 or Adopt-A-Park@a2gov.org),* a chance to learn volunteer opportunities for helping maintain city parks near where you live. *Various times & locations. Free. 996–3266.*

Cobblestone Farm Spring Fling

S'mores and more

The rain was just letting up as we pulled into Cobblestone Farm for its annual Spring Fling (to be held this year on May 5). At first, it looked as if the event had been rained out—there were only us and the animals. My eight-year-old son, Little Brother, had a great time visiting the ponies, geese, goat, duck, and chickens. We peered into the rustic barn and tried to call the animals over to us.

I have always associated Cobblestone Farm with the livestock, so after visiting them, I turned to leave.

Then Little Brother said, "I smell s'mores."

I smelled it too. "There must be an open fire somewhere."

We followed the smell of smoke up to the house and discovered an old-fashioned black cast-iron stove (the height of 1830s technology) with fire blazing, a few empty eggshells baking on the ledge, and a cake inside. A lady in a long green dress, checkered apron, and white bonnet was mixing the batter for a "cup cake"—not a cupcake as we know it, but a cake made with even cupfuls of ingredients (one cup of this, two cups of that, making the recipe easy to remember).

On the back porch, we found some boys fiddling with the trebuchet, a wooden catapult that had gotten swollen in the humidity. They never got it working, but they told us about catapulting pumpkins at the Fall on the Farm event and catapulting squashes at the Independence Day celebration. Fun fact: It takes exactly $37 worth of pennies to ballast the trebuchet.

Other volunteers dressed in period clothing led tours through the beautifully appointed farmhouse, sharing the oral histories of the Maynards, Ticknors, Booths, and Campbells who once lived here. Dr. Benajah Ticknor, who built the original cobblestone farmhouse in 1835, was a naval surgeon. His brother, Heman Ticknor, was a farmer and political leader. The building was extensively renovated by the Booths, who raised thoroughbred horses—which they raced at the old county fairgrounds in what is now Burns Park. (Traces of the racetrack survive in a ring of trees—see p. 35 of the April Observer—and the building that is now the Burns Park Senior Center.) William Campbell was a Scottish immigrant, and his descendants lived in the house for three generations. If you look carefully at the photo of the Campbell great-granddaughter who finally sold the farmhouse to the city of Ann Arbor in 1972, you can also see the tracks of the interurban, a streetcar line that once connected Ann Arbor to cities like Ypsilanti, Chelsea, Detroit, and Jackson.

By the time we finished the tour, the sun had come out, and the historic site was bustling with visitors—all, like us, enjoying spring on the farm.

—Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

★"Dexter Breakfast Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Sat.* Beginner-friendly slow-paced (22 mile) and moderate/fast-paced (30–80 mile) round-trip rides to the Dexter Bakery. A very popular ride. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 761–1147 (May 4 ride), 775–1156 (May 11), 994–6342 (May 18), 663–5060 (May 25).*

★"Healthy Kids Day": Ann Arbor YMCA. A 5-km fun run, games, and activities for families with kids. *9 a.m.–1 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti. Free. 661–8047.*

★"5th Annual Touch a Truck": Washtenaw Success by 6/Washtenaw Great Start Parent Coalition. All kids invited to view and touch trucks, including a fire engine, a cement mixer, a school bus, a recycling truck, a mail truck, and more. Also, information booths on early childhood programs. *9 a.m.–noon, Shadford Field (between Ypsilanti High School and Estabrook Elementary School), 1885 Packard, Ypsilanti. Free. 994–8100, ext. 2178.*

★"The Education System": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. State representative Adam Zemke and local historian Stewart Gordon discuss what they see as state efforts to undermine the autonomy of local school districts, problems in the Ann Arbor school board, and efforts to stifle innovations at Skyline High in the name of centralized uniformity. Followed by discussion. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. *9:45 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

★6th Annual Farm Festival: Braun & Helmer. A tractor & engine show, toy show, large flea market, petting farm, kids pedal pull, tractor pull, trade show, live auction of farm toys and other items, and more. Lunch available. Bake sale. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission; donations accepted. 368–1733.*

Waterloo Natural History Association. *May 4 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.):* **"Faerie Festival."** Following a hike to discover nature through the eyes of the wee folk that inhabit our woods and fields, participants construct a faerie or gnome home from natural materials, and undertake a "Lilliputian meander" and other activities revealing the magic of the natural world or enjoy a scavenger hunt or sensory wildflower walk. *May 11 (1:30–3 p.m.):* **"Incredible Edibles."** WNHA wild foods expert Tom Jameson leads a 90-minute hike to learn about edible wild plants available locally and then prepares some wild food dishes (with recipes) to sample. *May 19 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Creatures of the Night."** Howell Nature Center staff display several live nocturnal birds and discuss their habits and adaptations to the dark. *Various times, Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot (except as noted), Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (families, $5); additional materials fee for "Sketching Nature" program. Space limited; preregistration required. $10 annual vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.*

★"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. All parents invited to bring their kids, from infants to 5-year-olds, for a program of music and dancing presented by Kindermusik teacher Denise Owens. *10–10:40 a.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Playgroup: Manzanitas Spanish Immersion Preschool. *May 4 & 18.* Stories and songs geared toward kids ages 6 months–5 years, accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. *10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Manzanitas, 511 Miller. $2 suggested donation per child ($5 per family). (Park in the church lot off Chapin.) 369–6563.*

★Storytime: Literati Bookstore. *Every Sat.* All kids invited. *11 a.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. *Every Sat.* Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids age 3 & up. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

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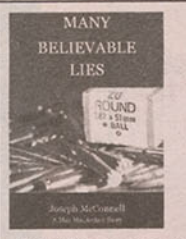

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★**Storytime: Nicola's Books.** *Every Sat.* An experienced storyteller spins yarns for kids age 7 & under. At the May 4 storytime *only,* local writer Keri Middaugh reads her book *My Detroit Garden.* The May 18 storytime *only* is followed by an appearance by Curious George. *11 a.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Ann Arbor Women's Rugby vs. Cleveland.** *11 a.m., Riverside Park, 1009 Canal St. (off Wall St.). Free. annarborwomensrugby.com.*

★**"Evolution of Whales": U-M Natural History Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* Hands-on 20-minute interactive demo exploring how whales have adapted to thrive underwater by comparing archaic to modern whales. Geared toward adults and kids age 5 & up. *11 a.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium Shows. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Three different audiovisual planetarium shows. ***The Sky Tonight*** (11:30 a.m. Sat. and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun.) is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Cosmic Colors*** (Sat. 12:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual journey across the entire electromagnetic spectrum that explores the reasons for color, the nature of X-rays, and more. ***Stars to Starfish*** (Sat. & Sun. 2:30 p.m.) is an animated show that compares the exploration of the universe of outer space with the exploration of the Earth's oceans. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $5. 764–0478.*

★**Scio Woods Preserve Hike: Huron Valley Sierra Club.** All invited to join a moderately paced 3-mile hike through woodlands and hills and along streams. *11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m., meet at the trailhead, Scio Church Rd. just west of Wagner. Free. 677–0823.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Discs can be borrowed at park office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $7 per player; free for spectators. $5 vehicle entrance fee. 449–4300.*

★**"Inside|Out Art Tours": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun. through June 15.* Docents lead 30-minute walking tours of public art, with special emphasis on the reproductions of famous artworks that have been temporarily installed by the Detroit Institute of Arts. *Noon–2:30 p.m., begin at AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. Free. 995–5439.*

"Professor Ray's Everyday Science": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *May 4, 5, 18, & 19.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *May 4 & 5:* **"Mind Over Matter"** includes experiments with extreme states of solids, liquids, and gases. *May 18 & 19:* **"Good Vibes"** features sound experiments, including the chance to see a flame extinguished by sound. *1 & 3 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $10 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**Sharon Hills Preserve Stewardship Workday: Legacy Land Conservancy.** Local falconer Cynthia Avery gives a presentation on **falconry** with her bird, Forest. Followed by a workday to remove invasive plants. *1–4:30 p.m., Sharon Hills Preserve, Sharon Hollow Rd. between Walker and Washburn, Sharon Twp. Free. legacylandconservancy.org.*

Tour: Kempf House Museum. *May 4, 5, 12, & 19.* Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, named for the family of German American musicians who occupied it circa 1900. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations accepted. 994–4898.*

★**"Read to Rikki the Dog": Nicola's Books.** All beginning readers invited to read one-on-one to Rikki, a golden retriever who's a very good listener. *1:30–3:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"Spring into Fun!": Community Action Network.** A kid-friendly festival with games and outdoor activities, including a park-wide scavenger hunt, spring-themed trivia games, face painting, balloon animals, and a raffle. Prizes. Proceeds benefit a 15-passenger van that will serve low-income families. *2–5 p.m., Southeast Area Park, Ellsworth & Platt. Free, but donations accepted. 994–2985.*

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Natural History Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★**"Safety Pin Bracelets": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for youth in grades 3–12. Materials provided. *2–3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

Note: Most educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Ann Arbor District Library. FREE. 327–4555. AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave.

Every Wed. through May 8:* "America's Music: A Film History of Our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway."** A weekly series of film screenings, followed by discussion led by U-M musicology professor Mark Clague. Part of a Tribeca Film Institute project (see 10 Friday Events listing). 6:30–8:30 p.m. ***May 1: Latin Music USA, Episode One: Bridges (Daniel McCabe, 2009), an exploration of the development of Afro-Cuban jazz and mambo in New York City dance halls and nightclubs, and an excerpt from ***From Mambo to Hip-Hop: A South Bronx Tale*** (Henry Chalfant, 2006) that explores the origins of hip-hop as a conscious alternative to gang culture. ***May 8: A Space for Music, a Seat for Everyone: 100 Years of UMS Performance in Hill Auditorium*** (Sophia Cruz & Anna Prushinskaya, 2013), a new documentary that draws on concert recordings, news articles, and anecdotal interviews.

May 3:* "Alois Nebel"** (Tomás Lunák, 2011). Named Best Animated Film at the 2012 European Film Awards, this film noir–style tale traces the memories of a troubled Czechoslovakian train dispatcher haunted by his WWII experiences. Czech, subtitles. The program opens with the Oscar-nominated animated short ***The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore (Brandon Oldenburg & William Joyce, 2011), an adaptation of Joyce's humorous, poignant allegory—inspired in equal parts by Buster Keaton, *The Wizard of Oz,* and Hurricane Katrina—about people who devote their lives to books and books who return the favor. Also, between films, a set by the local acoustic pop-folk band **Cash Harrison & the Terrible Decisions.** 6:30–8:30 p.m.

***May 22:* "Martin Luther King, Jr: A Historical Perspective"** (Thomas Friedman, 1994). Award-winning documentary about MLK's life and career. Also, Performance Network staff are on hand to introduce its current production *The Mountaintop* (see 2 Thursday listing), Katori Hall's new play set in MLK's hotel room on the eve of his assassination. 7–8:15 p.m.

Ann Arbor Senior Center. 794–6250. 1320 Baldwin.

***Every Mon.:* "Movie Matinee,"** with films TBA. FREE. 12:30–3 p.m.

B-Side. $3–$5 suggested donation. 214–9995. 310 E. Washington, 7 p.m.

May 4:* "May the Fourth Be with You."** Screening of ***Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope (George Lucas, 1997), a rereleased edition of the original *Star Wars.*

Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. $5 suggested donation. 327–0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

***May 18:* "Spiritual Cinema."** Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

***May 31:* "Brother Sun, Sister Moon"** (Franco Zeffirelli, 1972) Biopic about St. Francis. The soundtrack features songs by Donovan. Followed by discussion.

Jewish Film Festival. Annual touring festival of documentary and feature films on Jewish themes. Tickets $10 (festival pass, $100). 971–0990. Michigan Theater, various times.

***May 5:* "Life in Stills"** (Tamar Tal, 2011) and **"Numbered"** (Dana Doron & Uriel Sinai, 2012). Documentary double feature. *Life in Stills* is about the relationship between a 96-year-old Israeli woman and her grandson as they struggle to rescue from demolition her photo shop, which contains nearly one million negatives documenting Israel's beginnings, and *Numbered* is about Auschwitz survivors and the relationship they have with the tattooed number on their arms. Hebrew, subtitles. 2 p.m. **"Hava Nagila: The Movie"** (Robert Grossman, 2012). Documentary about the history of this ubiquitous Jewish folk song that traces its around-the-world journey from the Ukraine to Israel, the Catskills, and YouTube. Interviews with Harry Belafonte, Leonard Nimoy, Connie Francis, and Glen Campbell, as well as performances of the song by Belafonte, Francis, Danny Kaye, Bob Dylan, Lena Horne, Regina Spektor, and Chubby Checker. 8 p.m.

***May 6:* "BESA: The Promise"** (Rachel Goslins, 2012). Documentary about the families, mostly Muslim, who helped save Jewish families in Nazi-occupied Albania. English & Arabic, subtitles. Followed by a talk by Indiana University linguistics & anthropology professor Frances Trix, winner of the Albanian American National Association Lifetime Achievement Award. 2 p.m. **"A Bottle in the Gaza Sea"** (Thierry Binisti, 2011). Adaptation of Valerie Zenatti's award-winning novel about the email-nurtured romance that blossoms between a 17-year-old French girl whose family has settled in Jerusalem and a 20-year-old Palestinian. French, Hebrew, English, & Arabic; subtitles. 5 p.m. **"The Flat"** (Arnon Goldfinger, 2012). Documentary about the director's discovery, as he cleans out the Tel Aviv flat of his deceased grandparents—both immigrants from Nazi Germany—of a bizarre commemorative coin that points to a complicated and shocking story. English & Arabic, subtitles. 8 p.m.

***May 7:* "A.K.A. Doc Pomus"** (William Hechter & Peter Miller, 2012). Documentary about the life and career of the Brooklyn-born songwriter. Paralyzed with polio as a child, he reinvented himself first as a blues singer and then as the creator (usually with melodist Mort Shuman) of a string of early rock 'n' roll classics, from "A Teenager in Love" and "Save the Last Dance for Me" to "This Magic Moment" and "Little Sister." Followed by a talk by local Jewish Cultural Society educator Larry Kuperman, a lecturer on Jews in rock 'n' roll. 2 p.m. **"Yossi"** (Eytan Fox, 2012). This sequel to *Yossi & Jagger* finds the Israeli army physician reminiscing about the love of his life, a fellow Israeli army officer who died 10 years earlier, when he encounters a group of young officers, one of whom reignites his romantic feelings. Hebrew, subtitles. 5 p.m. **"The Day I Saw Your Heart"** (Jennifer Devoldere, 2011). Comic drama about a 60-year-old man, expecting a baby with his young wife, who tries to repair his relationship with his 2 grown daughters. French, subtitles. 8 p.m.

***May 8:* "Incessant Visions"** (Duki Dror, 2011). Documentary about the life and work of the influential German Jewish Expressionist architect Erich Mendelsohn. Followed by a talk by U-M Dearborn art history lecturer Jennifer Perlove. 2 p.m. **"God's Neighbors"** (Meny Yaesh, 2012). Drama about 3 Breslov Hasidic men who force their beliefs—sometimes violently—on others. When the group's leader falls in love he suffers a crisis of faith and must choose between his feelings and his friends. Hebrew, subtitles. 5 p.m. **"The Other Son"** (Lorraine Levy, 2012). Drama about 2 young men, one Israeli and one Palestinian, who discover they were switched at birth. Followed by a talk by local psychoanalyst and child development specialist Michael Singer. French, Hebrew, & Arabic; subtitles. 8 p.m.

***May 9:* "Kaddish for a Friend"** (Leo Khasin, 2012). Drama, set in a working-class neighborhood in Berlin, about the unlikely friendship that develops between a feisty elderly Russian Jew and a Palestinian teenager whose family has migrated to Germany from a refugee camp in Lebanon. German, Arabic, Hebrew, & Russian; subtitles. 2 p.m. **"Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story"** (Jonathan Gruber & Ari Daniel Pinchot, 2012). Drama about the personal life of the elite Israeli commander who died fighting to rescue hostages at Entebbe in July 1976. 5 p.m. **"The Ballad of the Weeping Spring"** (Benny Toraty, 2012). Stylized homage to spaghetti westerns and samurai epics that tells the story of a man living like a hermit in the wake of a terrible accident who, in order to grant the wish of a dying friend, reunites his legendary Mizrahi band for a final concert. Hebrew, subtitles. 8 p.m.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually twice, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8; MTF members, $7.50; films before 6 p.m., $7). Michigan Theater (unless otherwise noted), times TBA unless otherwise noted.

***Apr. 26–May 2:* "The Company You Keep"** (Robert Redford, 2012). Thriller about a former Weather Underground activist who goes on the run from a journalist. Stars Robert Redford.

***May 1, 2, & 4:* "To the Wonder"** (Terrence Malick, 2012). Drama about an American who falls in love on a trip to Paris and asks the woman and her daughter to accompany him back to Oklahoma, where an old flame complicates his new relationship. Stars Ben Affleck, Rachel McAdams, & Javier Bardem.

***May 4–8:* "Upstream Color"** (Shane Carruth, 2013). Romantic sci-fi thriller about a woman who's drugged by a small-time thief and unknowingly drawn into the life cycle of a mysterious microscopic organism where she meets a man in a similar quandary.

***May 10-16:* "From up on Poppy Hill"** (Goro Miyazaki, 2011). Hand-drawn animated Japanese film about a group of teens who try to save their school's clubhouse from being demolished before the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

***May 19–23:* "Ginger and Rosa"** (Sally Potter, 2012). Drama set in 1962 London about two teenage girls whose lifelong friendship is shattered by the clash of desire and the determination to survive. Stars Elle Fanning, Christina Hendricks, & Annette Bening.

***May 19–23:* "Starbuck"** (Ken Scott, 2011). Poignant comedy about a fortysomething slacker who finds out he's the biological father of 533 children, 142 of whom have filed a class-action lawsuit to reveal the true identity of the sperm donor known only as Starbuck. French & Spanish, subtitles.

***May 24:* "Kon-Tiki"** (Joachim Ronning & Espen Sandberg, 2012). Historical drama about Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdal's 4,300-mile voyage across the Pacific on a balsa wood raft in 1947. English & Norwegian, subtitles.

***May 30:* "Transforming Loss"** (Judith Burdick, 2013). Documentary about the grief journeys of 6 families who coped with devastating losses through helping others. Advance tickets available at ticketweb.com. 7 p.m.

UMMA. FREE. 764–0395. UMMA Auditorium (525 S. State), 5 p.m.

***May 14:* "A Space for Music, A Seat for Everyone"** (Sophia Kruz & Anna Prushinskaya, 2013). Documentary about the history of Hill Auditorium, built in 1913.

WCBN-FM. FREE admission. 763–3500. Arbor Brewing Company (114 E. Washington), 8:30 p.m.

***May 14:* "The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-Up Zombies"** (Ray Dennis Steckler, 1964). Trashy low-budget monster musical that's regularly celebrated as one of the worst films ever made.

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Sat., except May 18.* Jugglers of all skill levels invited for informal practice. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. On May 18, the club hosts a Juggling Arts Festival (see listing). *2:30–5 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761–1115.*

"Strum & Drum": Oz's Music Environment. *Every Sat.* Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. on May 4 only, a free **Kids Open Stage.** *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $15 per family. 662–8283.*

★**Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook,* Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection,* and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. *3–6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. Call to confirm. 994–9307.*

★**"Nowhere Is a Place": In Good Company African American Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Bernice McFadden's novel about a chronically displaced woman who takes a road trip with her mother from Nevada to a family reunion in Georgia. Along the way, the two women uncover a family secret that has been at the heart of their estrangement. *4 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Young Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Martha vander Kolk calls to music by Brad Battey & friends. For students and people in their 20s & 30s. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Bring clean, flat, non-marking shoes. *4–7 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $10 (members, $9; students, $5). (248) 417–7968.*

Spring Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. Performances by the 2 choirs of this ensemble of talented local youth singers. Program TBA. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (kids, students, & seniors; $5) at the door. 996–4404.*

"Drum 4 Wellness Circle": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a drum circle. Bring a drum or use one provided. *7:30–9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $5 suggested donation. 480–1219.*

"Shrek": Pioneer High School Theater Guild. See 3 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Macbeth": Huron High School Players. See 3 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Julie Levy-Weston calls to music by the Bowling Green (OH) **Root Cellar String Band.** All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $11 (members, $10; students, $5). 769–1052.*

Josephine Foster: Canterbury House. Performance by this Colorado folk singer-songwriter whose eclectic albums have covered everything from blues to children's music to unorthodox interpretations of 19th-century German *lieder* to Spanish folk songs. Her most recent album, *Blood Rushing,* is inspired by her childhood and evokes western geography, native rhythms, and imagined mythology. *8 p.m.,*

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Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students, $5). 764–3162.

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 2 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Billy Ray Bauer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *May 4 & 11.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments. Participants encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *Sunset–12:30 a.m. or as long as the sky remains clear, Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: Dance Revolution. *May 4 & 18.* High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. Preceded by beginner (7 p.m.) and advanced (8 p.m.) salsa lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main (above Elmo's). $5 ($8 includes lesson). (313) 808–0358.*

5 SUNDAY

★**Horse Show: Spur of the Moment Club.** A judged amateur riding event featuring kids and adults riding English, western, and halter styles. Concessions. *8 a.m.–about 7 p.m., Woodbine Farm, 9976 W. Liberty (east of M-52 between Parker & Guenther), Lima Twp. Free admission. spurhorseshow.com.*

★**Nature Programs: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Hikes led by WCPARC naturalists. *May 5 (8–10 a.m.):* **"Sunday Morning Bird Walk"** *(Leonard Preserve, meet at the dead end of Union St. north off Main west of M-52, Manchester).* Bring binoculars and a field guide if you can. *May 5 (1–4 p.m.):* **"Wildflowers or Bust!"** *(Sharon Mills Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd. between Pleasant Lake & Sharon Valley rds., Manchester).* Hike to the Nan Weston Preserve. Wear boots that can get wet and bring water and a snack. *May 11 (10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.):* **"Wildflowers along the Saline River"** *(Draper-Houston Meadows Preserve, Mooreville Rd., Milan. From US-23, exit Carpenter Rd., turn right on County St., continue onto Main which becomes Mooreville).* Wear boots that can get wet. *May 19 (2–4 p.m.):* **"Botany of Ladyslipper Fen"** *(Park Lyndon, north parking lot, North Territorial Rd., 15 miles west of US-23, Dexter).* Wear boots that can get wet. *Various times & locations. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

35th Annual Burns Park Run: Burns Park PTO. Around 1,000 people ages 5–90 attend this popular family affair. This year's event offers 5-km and 10-km chip-timed races along beautiful tree-lined streets, and a half-mile kid-popular "fun run" ($5) around the park. Medals for overall male & female winners in both races, male & female masters, male & female grand masters, male & female top 3 per age group, all finishers in kindergarten, grade school, and the fun run. Proceeds benefit Burns Park PTO programs. *8:30 a.m. (5-km run), 8:40 a.m. (10-km run), & 10 a.m. (fun run), Burns Park, 1414 Wells. $20 for the 5-km & 10-km events in advance at burnsparkrun.org by May 3 (late registration, $25). racedirector@burnsparkrun.org.*

★**Sunday Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Sun.* Round-trip rides with various paces, distances, and destinations. *May 5:* **"Azalia Ashley Memorial Metric Century."** Fast/moderate-paced 67-mile ride (747–1862) to Azalia (formerly known as East Milan) with a lunch stop in Milan. *May 12:* **"Mother's Day Democratic Ride."** The assembled riders choose their own pace and destination. *May 19:* **"Hathaway House Ride."** Moderate-paced 65-mile ride (255–8853) that leaves at 10 a.m. from the municipal parking lot on Ann Arbor St. at US-12 in Saline. *May 26:* **"Memorial Day Sunday Democratic Ride."** Pace and destination are determined by the assembled riders. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park (except as noted), N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431.*

34th Annual Show 'n' Shine Car Show: Ypsilanti Area Street Rods. Dozens of slick street rods, sleek muscle cars, and elegant antique autos. Also, muffler rapping contests, in which parked street rodders stomp on the gas to see whose engine is most deafening. Games, prizes, a DJ, food vendors, and a swap meet. Preceded on May 4 by a kickoff party (6–9 p.m.). *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Riverside Park near Depot Town, Ypsilanti. $2 admission; $20 to show a car. 649–7980, yasr.com.*

★**"Spring Fling Regatta": U-M Sailing Club.** All invited to watch club members and others who want to enter (it's free) race in sailboats up to 18 feet long. *10 a.m., Baseline Lake, 8010 Strawberry Lake Rd., left from Mast off North Territorial. Free. Preregistration requested by emailing townsend@umich.edu. 426–0920.*

★**Annual Fairy Door Walk: Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club.** Walk at your own pace, along a 5- or 10-km route, to view the downtown fairy doors and other magical sights. All abilities welcome. Do not feed the fairies. Dogs and rattlesnakes must be leashed. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., maps available at the Michigan Union. Free. washtenaw-wanderer@gmail.com.*

★**Spring Ride & Festival: Bike Ypsi.** 30-, 15-, and 5-mile guided bike rides. Followed by a rally and barbecue, bike decorating, games, and information on bike maintenance, bike routes, and more. Helmets required for riders age 17 & under. Free tune-ups and ride registration begin at 9 a.m. *10 a.m., Recreation Park, 1015 Congress, Ypsilanti. Free. bike.ypsi.org, 634–5593.*

★**"The Essence of Tibetan Buddhism": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Sun.* Talk by **Gelek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994–3387.*

The Sunday Artisan Market. *Every Sun.* Juried market that features local handmade arts and crafts and artist demos. On May 12, Mother's Day crafts for adults and kids (noon–3 p.m.). *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 913–9622.*

★**Mature Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sun.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. *May 5:* First Presbyterian minister-in-residence Evans McGowan shows part 2 of ***Son of Man,*** Mark Dornford-May's 2006 retelling of the life of Christ set in contemporary South Africa. *May 12 & 19:* Kalamazoo College religion professor Waldemar Schmeichel on "The Role of the Pope." *May 26:* All invited for **conversation.** *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sun.* All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Mitchell Field, Fuller Rd. Free. hac_ultimate@ameritech.net, 846–9418.*

"Spring Fling": Cobblestone Farm Association. *See review, p. 59.* Tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse led by costumed volunteers, who depict mid-19th-century farm routines and preparations for spring, including a woodstove cooking demo and some hands-on activities. Also, resident goats, ducks, and chickens, and a pony. Visitors can also get up on a 19th-century soapbox to speak their piece, try out a trebuchet (an old-fashioned gravity-fueled catapult), or play lawn games like stilts and hoops. *Noon–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2 suggested donation (families, $5; seniors & youth, $1; kids age 3 & under and members, free). 794–7120.*

★**"El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You about Africa": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current retrospective of works by Anatsui, an internationally renowned sculptor known for large wall pieces made from discarded bottle tops. The exhibit spans 4 decades of Anatsui's art, including works in wood, ceramic, and metal, as well as drawings, prints, and paintings. *1 & 2 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., Phoenix Center, 200 S. Main (above Elmo's). $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★**"Taking Care of You: Cancer Prevention Seminar": U-M Family Medicine Department.** Talks by U-M Family Medicine professors. Mack Ruffin discusses **"Truths and Myths: Cancer Prevention and Early Detection."** Suzanna Zick discusses **"Edible Health: Diet and Cancer Prevention."** *1–3 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Free. Preregistration required at med.umich.edu/fammet/seminar.html or by phone. 998–7120, ext. 264.*

★**"Comic Artists Forum": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local comic artist **Mike Roll,** creator of the comic series *Apooka: The World's Most Ador-*

able Zombie, discusses how he came up with his kid-friendly zombie and demonstrates his drawing techniques and tools. Participants also work on their own comics; materials provided. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *1–3 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★Beltaine Rite: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join local pagans for this ancient Celtic holiday that celebrates fertility. Also, a raffle and potluck. Preceded at 5 a.m. by a **"Dawn Beltaine Rite."** *2–5 p.m., Cavallo Equestrian Centre, 2185 Harris Rd., Ypsilanti. Free. 277–1897.*

★"Spring Has Sprung at Springhill": Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy/Superior Land Conservancy. All invited to join a hike of about a mile to enjoy spring wildflowers. Preceded at 1:15 p.m. by socializing. Refreshments. No pets. Be prepared for variable weather and muddy trails. *2–3:30 p.m., meet at 3401 Berry Rd. (just south of Ford Rd.), Superior Twp. Free. 484–6565.*

Square Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Marlin Whitaker calls to music by the Pure Michigan String Band. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Wear clean, nonmarking shoes. *2–5 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $8 (students, $5; kids age 14 & under with a parent, free; $1 discount for members). 994–6494.*

★"Memory in the Mirror": Ann Arbor District Library. Arbor Hospice grief support services staff lead a discussion for women about ways to include their deceased parents in the legacy they create in their own lives. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4555.*

★3rd Annual Water Hill Music Fest. This neighborhood music festival, which drew thousands of visitors last year, features performances by more than 100 local musicians on front porches in the Water Hill neighborhood—so called because of its water-themed street names (Spring, Fountain, and Brooks). The musicians perform in various genres from classical to jazz to rock and include everyone from the nationally renowned trio **the Chenille Sisters** and virtuoso classical pianist **Waleed Howrani** to amateur family bands and young musicians. The lineup also includes pop-rock singer-songwriter **Vienna Teng,** the Latin jazz band **Los Gatos,** the alt-country rock band **Corndaddy,** folk singer-songwriter **Chris Buhalis,** the **Tree Town Community Chorus,** the **Ron Brooks Trio** jazz emsemble, electro-pop singer-songwriter **Charlie Slick,** acoustic self-described "jazz-grass/punk-folk" trio **Wire in the Wood,** percussionist **Dan Piccolo,** classical violist **John Madison** & friends, a trio led by singer-songwriter **Gwenyth Hayes,** a band led by 11-year-old singer-pianist-percussionist **Ella Kocher,** the rock trio **The Uh Ohs,** and many others. Updated schedule of performance times and locations available at waterhill.org. Programs available on the day of the event at Big City Small World Bakery and from volunteers on foot. *Rain date:* May 12. *2–6 p.m., Water Hill neighborhood north of Miller bounded by Brooks, Sunset, and the train tracks. Free. info@waterhill.org.*

"Shrek": Pioneer High School Theater Guild. See 3 Friday. 2 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★Pokemon League: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun.* All invited to play this popular card game and trade cards with other players. *3 p.m., Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. Free. 786–3746.*

★"Hand Thrown: East Asian Wedged Coil Technique": Yourist Studio Gallery. Screening of this video that demonstrates a coiling technique used to hand-throw strong, elegant pots. *4 p.m., Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

★"The Sleeping Beauty": Detroit Puppet Theater (Ann Arbor District Library). This Detroit troupe, founded by puppeteers and other artists trained in the former Soviet Union, presents its adaptation of the classic fairy tale. *3–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★Dexter Community Orchestra. Anthony Elliott conducts this volunteer ensemble in 2 Ginastera ballets, *Panambi* and *Estancia,* and 20th-century English composer Malcolm Arnold's *Tam O'Shanter,* an overture inspired by the Robert Burns poem. Also, a concerto TBA featuring the winner of the orchestra's annual youth concerto competition. *4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 355–0725.*

★"Fun Home": Rainbow Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of Allison Bechdel's poignant graphic memoir about growing up in a funeral home. *4:30–7 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4168.*

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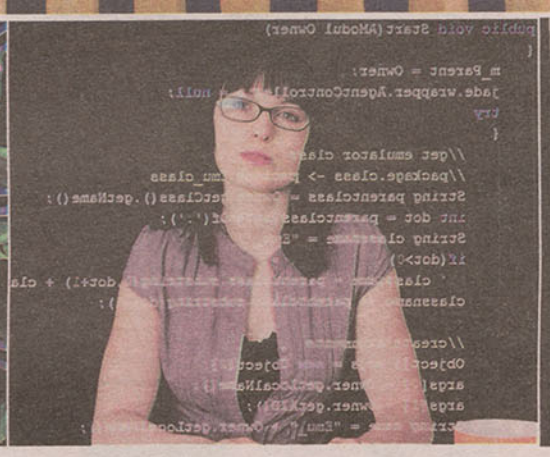

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33 Variations

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SEAN CARTER PHOTOGRAPHY

33 Variations, at the Purple Rose, is about the beauty of intellectual engagement. Its two central characters feel their value to the human race is so crucial, and their time so short, that they bumble and crash through their human relationships—even as they deftly execute their work. The title refers to one of Beethoven's last compositions, which took on an obsessional quality in the twilight of his life. We see the composer himself on one part of the stage; on another, a contemporary musicologist races to complete her study of the *Variations* before her own life ends.

Moisés Kaufman (*The Laramie Project*) recapped the variations of the title in the play's thirty-three short scenes. Or so I'm told—*most* flow into each other, creating what feels like a conventional two-act play. In this Purple Rose production, rhythm and harmony undergird every moment, particularly pleasing in a play that is literally about rhythm and harmony.

Katherine Brandt (Michelle Mountain), the musicologist, is a fictional creation, but she's investigating an actual conundrum: why did Beethoven write thirty-three variations on a simple, popular waltz of the era? Like any good story about an intellectual quest, the real heavy lifting is explaining not so much the answer as why anyone would ask the question in the first place. I came home enlightened.

I'm not sure how cutely numerological Kaufman was trying to be, or to what end, but since he went to the trouble to package the play itself into 33 scenes, he must have been conscious that threes—triplets and triads—thrum throughout *33 Variations.* The play dances between its two sets of characters—a triad composed of Beethoven and two of his contemporaries, mirrored by a present-day triad of Brandt and her contemporaries. And another strange numerological echo occurs when Brandt's circle expands to four—around the time she makes a breakthrough in her search to discover why Beethoven's first variation switches from a swaying, danceable 3/4 waltz to a more solid, and stolid, 4/4 march.

Without those intellectual explorations, *33 Variations* would be just another fatal-disease melodrama. It sure walks the rim of that canyon, at the bottom of which lie any number of made-for-TV movies where a beautiful woman has inexplicably tense and unhappy relationships with the perfectly nice people who surround her, only to resolve them in a snuffling deathbed scene. That happens here. Brandt has a disease; I won't give away what it is, though it is revealed early on. But the disease theme by itself isn't very strong or original.

I loved Vincent Mountain's set—an archive of high metal shelves neatly filled with all the weird boxes and receptacles that knowledge is stored in. Rhiannon Ragland reprises her excellent German accent from *Boeing-Boeing* a few years back, playing a stiff scholar who becomes a friend. Richard McWilliams makes a nimble, impish Beethoven. All in all, it's a good, smart production.

33 Variations runs through June 1.

—Sally Mitani

★Ann Arbor Morris. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance based on the 15th-century Spanish *moresca.* Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., outside of Burton Tower. Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm. 747–8138.*

"The Creation": First United Methodist Church. Ann Marie Koukios conducts the **Michigan Sinfonietta** and the **FUMC Chancel Choir** in Haydn's passionate oratorio, arguably his greatest work. Soloists are bass-baritone **Stephen West**, sopranos **Jessica Dold** and **Mary Martin,** alto **Cynthia Brundage,** tenor **Jonas Hacker,** and bass **Isaac Droscher.** *7 p.m., FUMC lawn, 120 S. State. $15 (students, $8; kids 12 & under, free) suggested donation. 662–4536, ext. 0.*

"Spring Energy": Northside Community Church Concert4aCause. An eclectic mix of vibrant works featuring the **Northside Commmunity Church Bell Choir,** the Pioneer High vocal ensemble **The Lorelei,** Vincent York's jazz history ensemble **Jazzistry,** tenor **Paul Clark,** baritone **Chris Grapentine,** saxophonist **Kacha Subotic,** and pianist **Adrienne Clark,** who performs works by Astor Piazzolla. Also, display of works by local painter Marty Maehr. Reception follows. Proceeds benefit Samaritan Counseling Services, an Ann Arbor–based nonprofit ecumenical agency of professional counselors and psychotherapists. *7 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Donation. 663–6091.*

6 MONDAY

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. *Every Mon., Jan. 28–May 6.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free to visitors ($115 per semester dues for those who join). 665–9271.*

★"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Play days are also offered at the Malletts Creek (Tues. 10–11 a.m., & Thurs. 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Wed. 11 a.m.–noon), and Traverwood (Fri. 10:30–11 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★Knitting: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon.* All ages invited to bring knitting projects to work on. Lunch available at 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. ($5.50; age 60 & over, $3; reservations required). *11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

★Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center. *Every Mon.* All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. *1–3 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★"The Civilized Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Mon.* Slow-paced "no-drop" ride, 12–18 miles, to Dexter, with a possible stop for ice cream. A good ride for beginners. Other Mon. rides: **"Back Roads Ramble"** (9 a.m., meet at 960 Forest Rd. off Country Club Dr., Barton Hills), a slow-paced ride, 12–35 miles (663–5060), along dirt and gravel roads to Independence Lake and other low-traffic destinations. **"Paved Country Roads Ride"** *(5:30 p.m., meet at Royster Clark, 885 Parker Rd. at Pine Cross Lane just south of Jackson Rd., 426–5116),* fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced training rides, 18–24 miles, along country roads west of town. On May 27 only: **"Memorial Day Democratic Ride"** *(9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St.),* a ride (994–6431) whose pace and destination are determined by the assembled riders. *7 p.m. sharp, Wellington Park, Alice at Bruce St. (off Arborview from Miller). Free. 945–4133.*

★"A Course in Miracles: East/West Spirituality Meets Freudian Psychology": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. Talk by local social worker

Lorraine Coburn. *7–7:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. 646–6585.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon. except Memorial Day.* Jigs, reels, and strathspeys. Usually with live music. All dances taught; dances this month are particularly beginner-friendly. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $5. 395–7782, 769–1052, 426–0241.*

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($35 annual dues for those who join). 274–9463.*

★Organ Concert: American Guild of Organists. Local organists **Steven Ball, Timothy Huth,** and **Mary Zelinski** are joined by tenor **Stephen Lancaster** in a program to celebrate the 850th anniversary of Notre Dame Cathedral. *7:30 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Kingsley at N. State. Free. 761–8606.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon.* Local high school English teacher Barry Aherne throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

7 TUESDAY

Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All ages invited to play noncompetitive bridge. No partner required. *9:30–11:30 a.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All ages invited to play this popular word game. Lunch available for $5.50 (age 60 & over, $3) at 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.; reservations required. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. *Every Tues.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar, and at 1 p.m. **mah-jongg** and **sewing.** Also, at 1:30 p.m., **Yiddish Tish,** a Yiddish conversation group. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971–0990.*

★Casa Latina: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All seniors invited to chat (in Spanish) and make friends with other Spanish-speaking seniors. *1–2 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

★"Introduction to Meditation": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. A senior Jewel Heart student presents an introductory talk on meditation and leads a White Tara guided meditation session with a focus on healing visualizations. In conjunction with the current UMMA *Buddhist Thangkas and Treasures* exhibit. *5:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994–3387.*

★"Focus on Women: The Huron River Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Tues.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 18–30 miles, to Dexter and back. Other Tues. rides: **"Tuesday Ride to Chelsea and Beyond"** (10 a.m., Barton Nature Area parking lot, W. Huron River Dr. near Bird Rd., 996–8440), a moderate-paced ride, 36–40 miles, to Chelsea for breakfast. *6 p.m., meet at Barton Nature Area parking lot, W. Huron River Dr. near Bird Rd. Free. 276–0240, 717–9583, 755–0884, 649–1023.*

★"Tuesday Evening Birders": Washtenaw Audubon Society. *Every Tues.* WAS members Lathe Claflin and Mike Sefton or city ornithologist Dea Armstrong lead evening walks at various local birding sites. Bring binoculars and (if you have one) a scope. *6 p.m., carpool from the Miller Rd. Park & Ride off M-14. Free. Anyone under 18 not accompanied by an adult relative or legal guardian must have a completed parental consent form (available from fieldtrips@washtenawaudubon.org). 994–3569, 668–2513.*

★"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA at meetup.com/ann-arbor-StitchNBitch/ Free. 945–3035.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 7 p.m. *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). $8 (students, $4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665–7704.*

★"Medication and Adult ADHD": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by Rochester Center for Behavioral Medicine medical director and WSU psychi-

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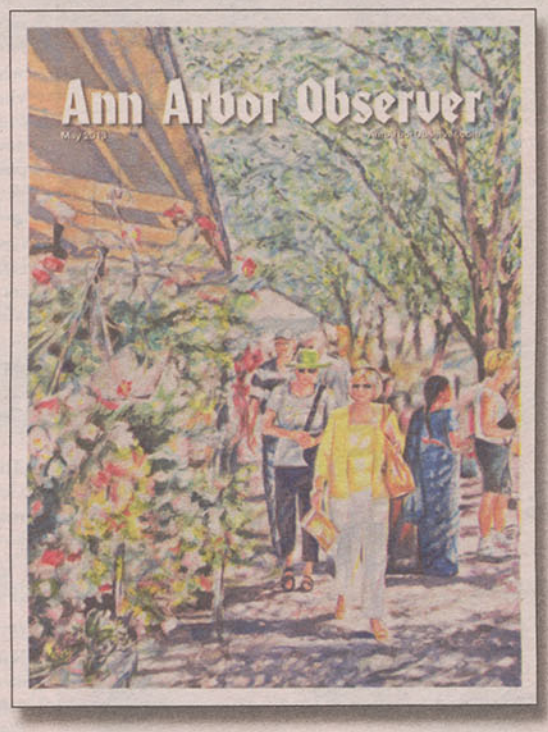

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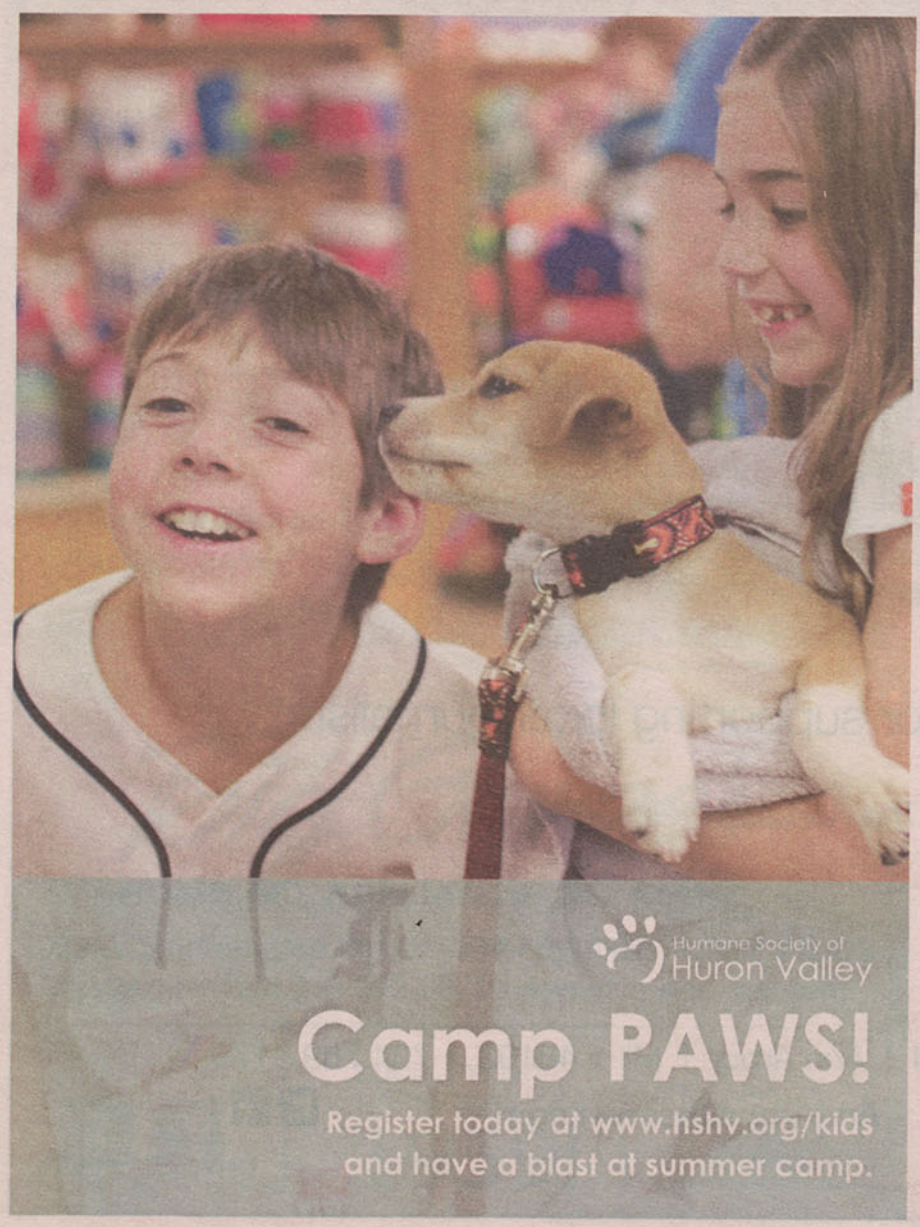

atry professor Joel Young, author of *Contemporary Guide to Adult ADHD. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

"Woodward Avenue: A Walking Guide": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. *Riverwalks Ann Arbor* author Brenda Bentley presents a slide show to introduce her new book exploring pedestrian attractions along Michigan's historic Highway 1. Signing. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $11 (babies age 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required. 665–2757.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** *Every Tues.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7–9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free to visitors ($80 per semester dues for those who join). 355–7738.*

★**Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines.** *Every Tues.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 70-member *a cappella* barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($26 monthly dues for those who join). 612–7580.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Tues.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance: Greg Humbel, 445–1925.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *May 7 & 21. May 7:* EMU health sciences professor Irwin Martin presents an illustrated talk on **"Underwater Photography: Cameras and Creatures of the South Pacific."** Also, club members show their digital images on various topics. *May 21:* Local surreal portrait photographer **Rob Woodcox** presents a behind-the-scenes look at a photo shoot he organized to create images of foster children for his Stories Worth Telling charity. Also, club members present their recent prints. *7:30 p.m., Wines Elementary School auditorium, 1701 Newport Rd. Free ($25 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *El Hombre, la Hembra y el Hambre,* Daina Chaviano's mystical novel about the struggles of young people in contemporary Havana. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"The Goetheanum Yesterday and Today": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Talk by U-M Flint German professor emeritus and longtime anthroposophist Douglas Miller. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 276–5294.*

★**German Speakers Round Table.** *Every Tues.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394.*

Adrianne Pope: Canterbury House. This U-M violin grad student is accompanied by several other musicians in chamber works by Gubaidulina, Shostakovich, Tower, and others. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students, $5). 764–3162.*

8 WEDNESDAY

Native Plant Exchange and Sale: Wild Ones. All invited to bring in plants to swap with other local gardeners. Also, sale of native plants. *6 p.m., Native Plant Nursery, 3052 Nordman (entrance is on Butternut, just off Nordman, south off Packard just west of Platt). Free admission. 604–4674.*

"18th Annual Dining for Dollars": HIV/AIDS Resource Center Fundraiser. Dinner, a silent auction, and raffles. *6 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Tickets $125 ($100 per person for groups of 4 or more) in advance at hivaidsresource.org/dining-for-dollars or by phone. 572–9355, ext. 240.*

★**Spring Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.** Local figure skaters perform the routines they're planning to perform at the upcoming Springtime Invitational (see 16 Thursday listing). *6:45–7:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 213–6768.*

★**"Pests and Pathogens in Beekeeping": Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers.** Club members discuss integrated pest management (IPM) practices that help reduce the negative impact of pests and pathogens on bee colonies. *7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking). 660–8621.*

★**Fiction Book Club: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Robinson Crusoe,*** Daniel Defoe's classic 1719 novel about a castaway living on a desert island. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"How to Burn Fat": Washtenaw Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local chiropractor Darren Schmidt. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration recommended. 975–4500.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short stories. Bring about 6 copies of your work to share. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"A Year in China": Pittsfield Union Grange.** Club members Dave and Annabel Griffiths discuss their experiences living in China. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck. *7:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange (enter at the back of the hall), 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 769–1052.*

★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** EMU history professor Kathleen Chamberlain leads a discussion of Erik Larson's ***In the Garden of the Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin.*** *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

★**"Mastering Separation": Allen Creek Preschool Thoughtful Parenting Series.** Lecture by Allen Creek Preschool family consultant coordinator Carol Austad. *8–9 p.m., Allen Creek Preschool, 2350 Miller. Free. 994–3382.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

9 THURSDAY

★**First Baptist Church Coffee Break Concert Series.** Lyric soprano **Sonja Srinivasan** is accompanied by pianist **Veena Kulkarni** in a program of works by Puccini, Mozart, Schubert, Bizet, Gershwin, and others. *12:15 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. 663–9376.*

Ikebana International Chapter 183. Ohara-style ikebana expert Anne Morrison leads a session of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $15 (members, $8) materials fee. (248) 685–7696.*

★**"National Mom's Nite Out": Briarwood.** All moms and daughters invited for makeovers, massages, food samples, and more. Prizes. *5–8 p.m. Briarwood mall. Free. 769–9610.*

★**Erin Stead: Literati Bookstore.** This local children's book illustrator, who created the images for the 2011 Caldecott-winning book *A Sick Day for Amos McGee,* reads ***If You Want to See a Whale,*** Julie Fogliano's new book that Stead illustrated about a boy who learns what it takes to catch a glimpse of an elusive whale. Signing. Philip Stead, Erin's husband, is on hand to sign copies of their co-created books, *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* and *Bear Has a Story to Tell. 6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

"Bocks & Trappists": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about more than 2 dozen bocks, *doppelbocks,* and Belgian Trappist ales. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance, $30 (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★**"Michigan Mushroom Hunter": Ann Arbor District Library.** Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club president Phil Tedeschi discusses the basics of hunting mushrooms in Michigan, from where to look and how to know which ones are safe to eat to cooking and preserving them. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"The Begonia Bribe": Aunt Agatha's.** Local cozy writer **Alyse Carlson,** who writes the blog *Confessions of a Watery Tart,* discusses her new gardening mystery. Signing. *7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**"The Tempest": Greenhills School.** *May 9 & 10.* Ben Cohen directs students in Shakespeare's culminating work, a visionary romance set on a magical island ruled by the enigmatic but benevolent sorcerer Prospero and his beautiful daughter Miranda. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 769–4010.*

"Just Desserts: One Acts, Shorts, & Skits": Community High School Ensemble Theater. *May 9–11.* Community High students present a series of 10-minute scenes, monologues, songs, and dances. *Evening time TBA, Community High School Craft Theater, 401 N. Division. (Parking available in the lot behind the school, N. Fifth Ave. at Detroit St.) Ticket prices TBA. 994–2021.*

★**Spring Orchestra Concert: Huron High School.** Timothy Krohn directs students in William Boyce's Symphony no. 1, David O'Fallon's *Legend,* music from *The Incredibles,* Benjamin Britten's *Simple Symphony,* Rossini's *Overture from the Barber of Seville,* and music from *Pirates of the Caribbean. 7:30 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994–2096.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Lion in Winter": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *May 9–12.* Thom Johnson directs local actors in James Goldman's popular black comedy, a fictionalization of the historical strife between England's 12th-century King Henry II; his estranged wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine; and their three sons. Reunited for the Christmas holidays, Eleanor and Henry quarrel over who should be heir to the throne—Eleanor's choice is Richard (the Lionhearted), while Henry favors his weakling youngest, Jeffrey. The resentful middle son, Geoffrey, meanwhile plots revenge on the whole family. The play is unabashedly modern, viciously funny, and fraught with Freudian overtones; the dialogue is bitingly satirical, the plot an intricate chess game of strategy, countermoves, and intrigue. *8 p.m. (May 9–11) & 2 p.m. (May 12), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets $22 (seniors age 60 & over, $20; students, $11; Thurs., $17) in advance at a2ct.org & by phone. 971–2228.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 9–11.* This veteran stand-up comic is a frequent performer on cable TV who has also had her own Comedy Central special. Her act blends storytelling with sharp commentary on a mix of momentous and trivial topics. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $12 (Thurs.) & $15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

10 FRIDAY

★**"Senior Living Week Expo": Housing Bureau for Seniors.** The 15th annual Senior Living & Housing Awareness Week kicks off with a day of talks exploring a variety of housing issues for seniors. Also, more than 60 exhibits by senior housing and care providers. For a complete schedule of workshops (preregistration required by Apr. 26) and open houses May 10–19 at senior housing communities around the county, see med.umich.edu/seniors/events. *8:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 998–9336.*

★**"Kinderconcert: Music and Motion": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Folks, and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra horn player Kurt Civilette lead kids ages 2–5 (accompanied by an adult) in a program that includes storytelling and dancing to live music. Participants also learn about the instruments. Accompanist is U-M music faculty pianist Kathryn Goodson. *9:30–10 & 10:30–11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science and Nature Center. *May 10 & 24.* A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 accompanied by a caregiver. Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *10–11:30 a.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $7. 997–1553.*

Dollhouse & Miniatures Show: Three Blind Mice. *May 10 & 11.* Show and sale of dollhouses and the miniature furniture, books, plants, and accessories used to decorate them. *4–8 p.m. (May 10) & 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (May 11), Holiday Inn, 3600 Plymouth Rd. $5 (kids ages 5–15, $2). (513) 861–0704.*

★**"Introduction to Linux and the Command Line": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staff present a hands-on introduction to using a Linux computer operating system. *5–8 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

Dick Gordon: Haiti Nursing Foundation Fundraiser. The host of NPR's *The Story* is joined by FSIL Nursing School (Haiti) dean Hilda Alcindor in a discussion of his recent trip to Haiti and what the school is doing to help with the earthquake recovery. Strolling Haitian supper. Cash bar. Proceeds benefit the FSIL nursing school in Leogane, Haiti. Followed by an afterglow party ($25). *6 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $75 in advance at haitinursing.org. 353–9565.*

★**"Ask the Passengers": Nicola's Books.** Young adult novelist **A.S. King** discusses her new novel about a girl who spends hours lying on her backyard picnic table watching airplanes fly overhead and having imaginary conversations with the passengers

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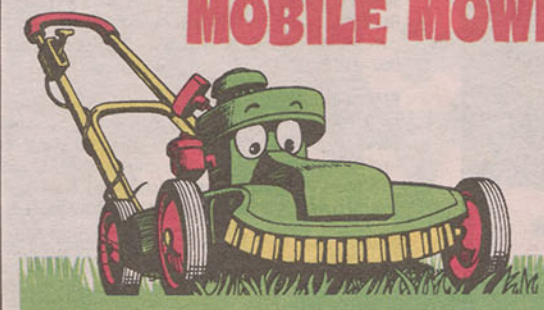

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galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. *The Print 2013* (May 17–June 23). Juried exhibit of works by Michigan printmakers. Reception May 17, 6–8 p.m. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, *Malletts Creek Branch* (3090 E. Eisenhower). *A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words: Paintings by the U-M Faculty Women's Club* (May 3–June 13). Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun., noon–6 p.m. 327–4555.

Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. *Of Many Faiths* (May 26–Aug. 1). Photography by Fred Beutler and oil paintings by Sue Beutler that address spirituality and various religions. Reception May 26, 1–2:30 p.m. (see Events listing). Mon., Wed., & Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; Tues. 9 a.m.–1 p.m. 794–6250.

Clay Gallery, 335 S. Main. *Day In and Day Out* (May 6–June 15). Playful sculptures by Elliott Kayser that portray fictional narratives and hint at topics such as sublimation and the ethics of convenience. Reception May 10, 7–9 p.m. Artist talk May 26, 3 p.m. Mon.–Sat. noon–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 662–7927.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. *Dangerous Minds 2013* (May 13–May 24). Works by students from area high schools. Reception May 15, 6–9 p.m. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 487–1268.

Gallery 55+, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. *Photography by Howard Bond and Paintings by Yoonjoo Jung* (May 19–July 26). Reception May 19, 4 p.m. 998–9353.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *Paintings by Rita Malone* (Apr. 30–May 28). Reception May 8, 5–7 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., by appointment, and during evening concerts. 769–2999.

Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main. *Courting, Dating, & Playing: Social Recreation in Washtenaw County since 1830* (through July 28). Exhibit about the history of popular leisure activities and social places throughout the county, with artifacts such as J-Hop dresses and dance cards. Sat. & Sun. noon–4 p.m. and by appointment. 662–9092.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *Mary Bachman Retrospective* (May 30–June 29). Works by this Michigan pastel artist. Thurs.–Sat. 3–8 p.m., Sun. 1:30–4 p.m. 480–2787.

U-M Hatcher Graduate Library, north lobby (enter from the Diag). *Birthing Reproductive Justice: 150 Years of Images and Ideas* (through June 10). Exhibit that illustrates many facets of women's reproductive issues, including pregnancy, birth, birth control, and child rearing. For hours, see lib.umich.edu/hatcher-graduate-library. 764–3166.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *Isamu Noguchi / Qi Baishi / Beijing 1930* (May 18–Sept. 1). Nationally touring collection of works by Japanese American sculptor Noguchi and Chinese ink painter Baishi. In 1930, Noguchi spent 6 months in Beijing, where he studied with Baishi. Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 764–0395.

U-M Rackham Galleries, 915 E. Washington, 4th floor. *Celebrating…Artist, University, Community* (through May 10). Works in various media by local artists. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–8 p.m. For info, call the Chelsea River Gallery, 433–0826.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *A Color Conversation* (May 6–June 15). Works by local multimedia artist Lynda Cole. Reception May 10, 7–10 p.m. Tues. & Wed. noon–6 p.m., Thurs.–Sat. noon–10 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

inside on various personal subjects, such as what it means that she's falling in love with a girl. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★"Digital-Free Discs and Drinks": PJ's Used Records. All invited to check their smart phone or iPod at the door, enjoy a pre-WWII-style cocktail from Tammy's Tastings, listen to vinyl LPs, and chat with PJ's owners Marc & Jeff Taras, guest DJ arwulf arwulf, and one another. *7–9 p.m., PJ's, 617–B Packard. Free. 663–3441.*

★"America's Music: A Film History of Our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway": Ann Arbor District Library. This 8-week series of concerts and films, a Tribeca Film Institute project being hosted at 50 sites around the country, continues today with **Barbara Wisse & Mark Kahny,** a prominent west Michigan vocal-and-piano duo who perform **"A Salute to Broadway and Tin Pan Alley."** The series also features Wednesday night film screenings (see Films). *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": St. Augustine's Homeschool Enrichment Program Campion Players. *May 10–12.* Henry Russell directs a cast of area homeschooled teens in Shakespeare's delightful comic fantasy, set in an enchanted forest, about a jealous tiff between the king and queen of the fairies, and the mortals snared in their mischief. *7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Whitmore Lake High School, 8877 Whitmore Lake Rd. $5 (family, $25) in advance via email to campionplayers@gmail.com and at the door. 239–3476.*

"The Tempest": Greenhills School. See 9 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Just Desserts: One Acts, Shorts, & Skits": Community High School Ensemble Theater. See 9 Thursday. Evening time TBA.

★"Spring Skies": Women's Chamber Chorus. David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in an eclectic program that ranges from music by Debussy to songs by pop-rock singer-songwriter Colbie Caillat. Also, a performance by the group's **Joyous Ringers** handbell choir. Piano accompanist is Andrew Anderson. *7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free; donations accepted. 355–7738.*

"Dance in the Mitten": People Dancing. *May 10 & 11 (different programs).* This local modern dance company presents a pair of programs highlighted by 4 new works by its artistic director, **Christina Sears-Etter.** The duet *Tarnish* is an abstract exploration of superficial change set to Dave Brubeck's "Unsquare Dance" and John Zorn's "Lonely Woman," and *Strive* is a group work inspired by the biology of empathy that's set to Zorn's "Uzziel" and "Ahahaj." *Latin Tap* is a solo with a vibrant Latin aesthetic set to local musician Ken Kozora's live performance on bass of his "Latin Groove," and the group work *Matrices* features local guitarist and electronic musician Robert Spaulding Newcomb's live performance of his eponymous score. Also, works by 16 guest choreographers from around Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. For detailed nightly schedule, see mittendanceworks.com. *7:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $17 (youth 12 & under, $12; both nights, $30) in advance at mittendanceworks.com and at the door. 368–7573.*

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. NYC caller Gene Murrow leads dances to live music by Debbie Jackson, Susie Lorand, and Josh Burdick. For experienced English country dancers. *8–11 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

"May Madness": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *May 10–13.* Four nights of tango dance parties. Preceded by tango workshops. *Time & location TBA. $15 (students, $10). umich.edu/~umtango.*

Joe Reilly: Kerrytown Concert House. Popular local singer-songwriter whose songs draw on blues, hip-hop, Native American, and other traditional American idioms and address ecological and spiritual themes. Tonight he celebrates the release of his new CD, *Greyhound Bus Tour.* With pianist Allison Radell, vocalist and guitarist Seth Bernard, vocalist May Erlewine, keyboardist Joshua Davis, bassist Marion Hayden, and drummer Michael Shimmin. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 general admission (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

Tylan: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Introspective, emotionally probing ballads by this young Americana singer-songwriter, a former member of the Atlanta-based pop-folk quartet Girlyman. She recently released her solo debut, *One True Thing.* Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $17 (kids age 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Lion in Winter": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 9 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

11 SATURDAY

★**Annual International Migratory Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society.** All invited—from novices to experienced birders—to help take a census of birds in Washtenaw County. Part of a 24-hour worldwide snapshot of populations of resident and migrant birds. Similar in structure to the WAS Christmas Bird Count: groups of volunteers are assigned specific areas to count. Feeder watchers also invited. *All day. Free. To volunteer or for information, call Roger Wykes at 769–6482.*

★**"Spring Round-Up Horse Show": 4-H.** Club members and other area riders demonstrate horsemanship, equitation, pleasure riding, and more. Concessions. *8 a.m.–about 7 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 997–1678.*

★**Eco-Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.** *May 11 & 18.* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided, or bring your own. *Note:* Kids age 15 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 16–18 must submit a permission form. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (May 11), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (May 18), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking at Matthaei). Preregistration requested. 647–8528.*

★**"Take a Child Birdwatching! International Migratory Bird Day": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** A WCPARC naturalist leads kids, accompanied by an adult, on a hike to look for birds that are passing through Michigan. Bring binoculars if you have them. *9–10:30 a.m., County Farm Park, Platt Rd. entrance. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**"Birding and Breakfast": Waterloo Recreation Area.** WRA park interpreter Katie McGlashen leads a birding hike in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. The program begins with a light breakfast. *9 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center (except as noted), Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. Free. $10 annual vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.*

38th Annual Allbreed Cat Show: Anthony Wayne Cat Fanciers. Hundreds of beautiful cats, ranging from local house pets to exotic and rare purebreds representing over 25 breeds, compete for awards or regional and national points. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., U-M Sports Coliseum, Hill at Fifth Ave. Spectators $6 (students & seniors, $5; kids, $4; families, $15) at the door. 434–8588.*

"Go Go Geocaching Fun": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All invited to use a LSNC handheld GPS unit (or bring your own) to search for buried caches. The program begins with a short introductory instruction. *9–11 a.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $6 (family, $21). 997–1533.*

Plant Sales: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens Fundraiser. *May 11, 12, 18, & 19.* Two weekend plant sales, including a **"Mother's Day Weekend Sale"** (May 11 & 12) with container plants and hanging baskets and a **"Kitchen Favorites Sale"** (May 18 & 19) with herbs and hard-to-find heirloom vegetables. Also, herbal samples and recipes and info on worm castings and gardening with worms. *10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission; metered parking. 647–7600.*

Rhododendron Plant Sale: American Rhododendron Society. Sale of rhododendrons. Also, club members are on hand to give advice on growing rhododendrons and azaleas. New members receive a free rhododendron. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. $40 admission (members, free admission), includes an 18-month club membership. 276–7617.*

"ScienceFest: Robotics": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *May 11 & 12.* Hands-on activities for kids. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (May 11) & noon–4 p.m. (May 12), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $10 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**"Come and Play the Acorn Way": Acorn Glen Cooperative Preschool.** *May 11 & 25.* Indoor and outdoor activities and refreshments for toddlers and preschool-aged kids, accompanied by a parent. Siblings and friends welcome. *10:30 a.m.–noon, Acorn Glen Cooperative Preschool, 1547 Miller. Free. 585–5555.*

★**11th Annual Physics Olympiad: U-M Physics Department.** Area high school teams battle in this fun, creative competition that involves a variety of physics contests, such as catapulting water balloons and making bridges out of pasta. *10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Randall (450 Church) & Dennison (500 Church). Free. graithel@umich.edu, kjojones@umich.edu.*

★**Coffee Tour: Zingerman's Coffee Company.** One of Zingerman's Coffee managing partners, Allen Leibowitz or Steve Mangigian, offers a free tour of the coffee company and talks about the intricate

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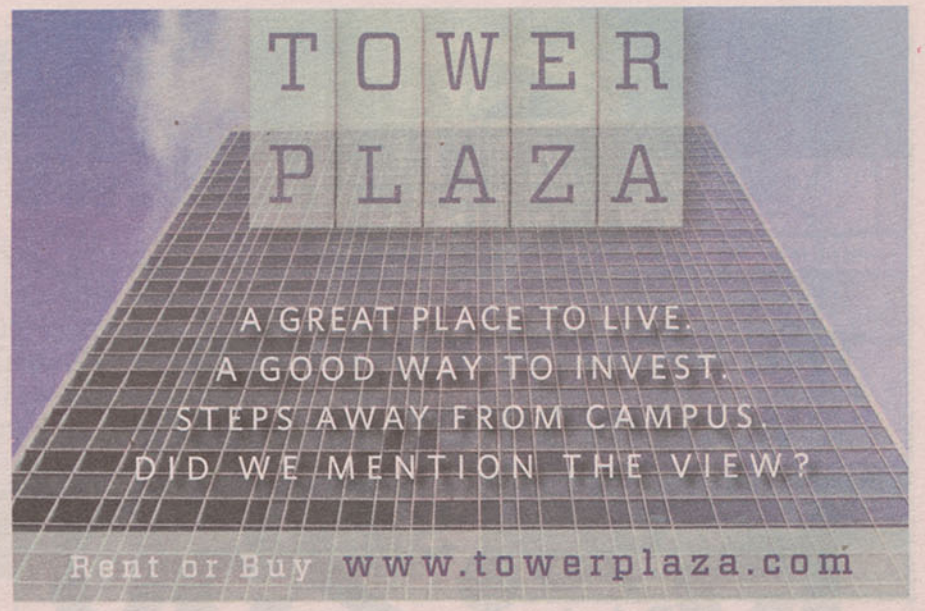
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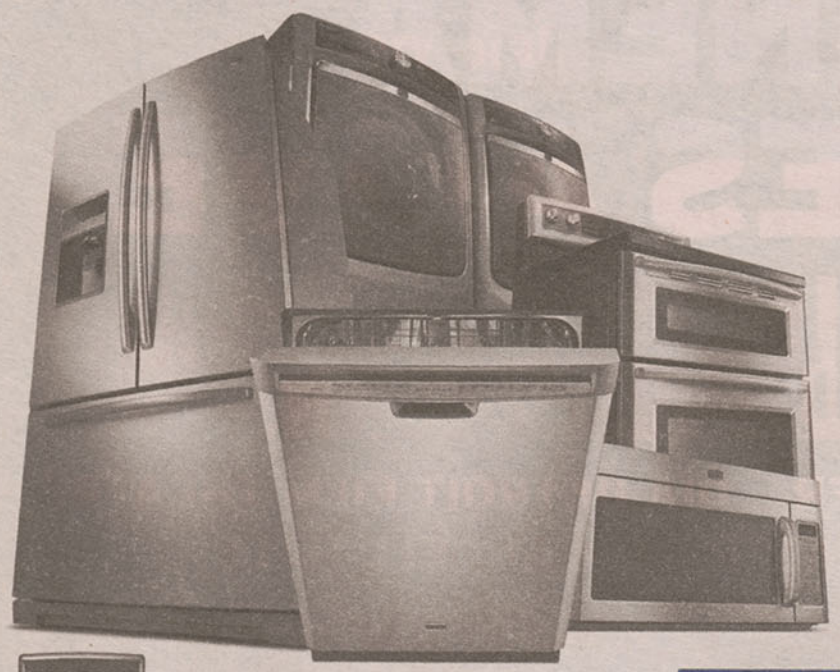

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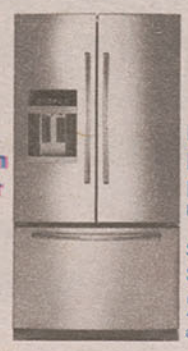

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singer-songwriter

Grant-Lee Phillips

Continuing evolution

KENNETH SCOTT

Singer-songwriter Grant-Lee Phillips came on the scene in the early 1990s in Los Angeles, performing rural-gothic, sometimes political rock in a band called Grant Lee Buffalo. Many rockers of that era have tried to make the transition to singer-songwriter music, but his has been unusually successful. Though not exactly a household name, Phillips has kept honing his music in the direction of the kind of simplicity that makes it haunt your thoughts, and he's getting better and better. His 2004 album *Virginia Creeper* was a country-flavored masterpiece with a memorable portrait of Lily-A-Passion:

Hey, she's a piratey soul,
Full of vinegar and glitter.
She's a song of her own
From down the wrong end of the river.

At the same time, Phillips continued to develop musically on two other fronts. He has evolved into a fairly strong twelve-string guitar player—no Leo Kottke, but enough of one to incorporate the play-of-shadows quality of that instrument, so evocative of layers of the subconscious, into his music. On the other hand, he's developed a talent for the kind of comfortable pop hook that lands songwriters' music in television and film soundtracks—no doubt helpful when he had a recurring role as the town troubadour on the durable comedy-drama *The Gilmore Girls*.

Now, in mid-career, Phillips has begun to explore his Native American heritage. A registered member of the Creek tribe, he also has Blackfoot and Cherokee ancestors, some of whom walked the Trail of Tears. He has tried to put all these strands of influence together in his latest release, *Walking in the Green Corn,* which appeared last fall and should be well represented in his Ark show on May 17 (see Nightspots).

It's an ambitious piece of work, not consistently successful but also unlike anything else out there. A few songs on the album are laments for what was violently destroyed, but more use Native American imagery in a contemporary way: to make sense of love, to delve into the deeper textures of the soul, to respond to feelings of imminent threat. In the last category belongs "The Straighten Outer":

Thunder in the mountain terrace,
Lightning in the sky,
Hammer of the straighten outer,
Working overtime.

All the world's a rattlesnake
Waiting to unwind.
And all the world needs setting straight
In his crooked mind.

Few songwriters who use Native American ideas have managed to avoid being overly mystical, but Phillips's new music gets there intermittently, and it is nowhere less than compelling to hear. He's on his way to producing music that can stand with the bitter-lyrical fiction of Sherman Alexie.

—James M. Manheim

world of java. *11 a.m.–noon, Zingerman's Coffee Company, 3723 Plaza Dr. Free. 929–0500.*

★"Make Mom Special": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–5 invited to make a Mother's Day card and paper flowers. Supplies provided. *11 a.m.–noon, AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"West Side Neighborhood Art Hop." The homes and studios of several west-side artists are open for a show and sale of their art and craft items. Live music at some venues. *Noon–5 p.m., venues and map available at facebook.com/WestsideNeighborhoodArtHop. Free admission. 996–0702.*

★"Interrupting Racism: Practicing the Skills of Creative Intervention": U-M Natural History Museum Understanding Race Project Community Conversation. All invited to join a discussion led by U-M Education School Study of Black Youth in Context research fellow Shalya Griffin and Allies for Change director Melanie Morrison. *1–4 p.m., Zing Train, 3728 Plaza Dr., off Ellsworth between Oak Valley & State. Free. Reservations requested. 764–0478.*

★"Minecrafters Guild": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grades 6 & up invited to help plan the building of an "Ann Arbor" using the AADL server dedicated to this computer game that involves building things with virtual blocks. *1–4 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Ebird & Friends: The Ark. Kids show hosted by **Erin Zindle**, the frontwoman of the classy local progressive country-rock band The Ragbirds. She is joined by several luminaries of the local music scene, including singer-songwriters **Dick Siegel, Chris Buhalis, Brant Losinski,** and **Jim Roll,** along with the folk-rock duo **The Understorey,** local improv comic **Shelly Smith,** and others TBA. *1 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com), and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★"Dance and Storytelling with the Ann Arbor Civic Ballet": Ann Arbor District Library. Young AACB dancers present a program interweaving stories and movement for kids in grades K–5. *2–2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★A.S. King: Ann Arbor District Library. This award-winning young adult fiction writer, author of such novels as *Ask the Passengers, Everybody Sees the Ants,* and *Dust of 100 Dogs,* discusses her approach to writing and announces the winners of the annual **AADL teen short story contest.** Refreshments. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Youth Orchestra Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Michael Hopkins and Jared Rawlings conduct this ensemble of young local musicians in a program highlighted by music from *Lord of the Rings.* Reception follows. *3 p.m., Michigan Theater. $5. 213–2000.*

★Treetown Community Chorus. David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a varied program TBA. Piano accompanist is Corky Landes. Followed by a potluck. *4 p.m., Gladwin barn, 4105 W. Liberty. Free; donations accepted. 355–7738.*

★Cultural Show: Children's Russian Club of Ann Arbor. Local Russian children present (in Russian) their original dramatization of ***La Perruche et le Poulet,*** Robert Thomas's play about a woman who discovers her employer's been murdered and has just

enough time to call the police before she faints. The body disappears before the police arrive. English synopses provided. *4:30 p.m., WCC Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg. Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741–1953.*

"Ann Arbor Scottish Ball": Tartan and Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Catered dinner and Scottish dancing to live music by a trio of local fiddler Susie Lorand, local pianist Debbie Jackson, and Philadelphia violinist Josh Burdick. *6 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $50. Reservations required. 769–1052, 426–0241.*

Hometown Concert: Fiddlers ReStrung. This year's headliner is award-winning fiddler **Hanneke Cassel.** The *Boston Globe* says "her musical ideas are savvy and sophisticated, but her throaty, gusting style is deeply banked in the Scottish and Cape Breton traditions." Opening act is the **Fiddlers ReStrung,** an ensemble of Saline High School fiddlers that performs American folk, bluegrass, and Celtic music. *6:30 p.m., Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. $15 (students & seniors, $10) at fiddlersrestrung.com. 429–8000, ext. 2338.*

International Folk Dancing. Balkan and Israeli dancing to live music by the Ethnic Connection. *7–10 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $10 (students, $5). 709–8748.*

"A Midsummer Night's Dream": St. Augustine's Homeschool Enrichment Program Campion Players. See 10 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Just Desserts: One-Acts, Shorts, & Skits": Community High School Ensemble Theater. See 9 Thursday. Evening time TBA.

"With a Hey and a Ho!": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Ben Cohen directs this local 24-voice chamber choir in songs inspired by Elizabethan writers from Shakespeare to Ben Jonson to John Donne. The program includes Irving Fine's *The Hour-Glass Suite* as well as works by Vaughan Williams, Fanny Mendelssohn, Matthew Harris, and others. *7:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Tickets $20 (students & seniors, $15) in advance at vocalartsannarbor.org. 998–0115.*

"Dance in the Mitten": People Dancing. See 10 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10. 408–1829.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Singles and couples invited. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $5. 822–2120.*

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of socializing and dancing to recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by a DJ. Cash bar. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck (bring a dish to pass, or pay $5). *8 p.m.–midnight, Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 973–1933. 994–0587, 214–6449.*

Ben Jansson: Kerrytown Concert House. Farewell concert by this talented Ann Arbor–bred jazz tenor saxophonist, who is soon moving to Japan. With pianist Glenn Tucker, bassist Paul Keller, drummer Pete Siers, and vocalist Sarah D'Angelo. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

Alex Levine Quintet: Canterbury House. Guitarist Alex Levine—a recent U-M jazz studies grad—leads his quintet in jazz originals and standards. Members include saxophonists Marcus Elliot and Pat Booth, bassist Ben Ralston, and a drummer TBA. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students, $5). 764–3162.*

Shekinah E & Friends: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. An eclectic mix of musical styles by local vocalist Shekinah Errington with musicians from her various ensembles. Also, a local poetry-and-music ensemble featuring poet Hosain Mosavat. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $8 ($15 for 2). 665–0409.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Lion in Winter": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 9 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 9 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

12 SUNDAY (MOTHER'S DAY)

★"Hudson Mills Metropark": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Karen Markey leads

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a hike to look for a variety of birds usually found in the park, including cuckoos, ruby-throated hummingbirds, woodpeckers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, tanagers, and more. Bring a beverage; insect repellent recommended. *7:30 a.m., meet at the flagpole in front of the Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. $5 vehicle entrance fee. 994–3569.*

Ann Arbor Triathlon/Duathlon: Elite Endeavors. All invited to compete in a triathlon (half-mile swim, 14-mile bike race, and 5-mile run) or duathlon (14-mile bike race sandwiched between 2- and 5-mile runs). Also, a 5-mile **trail run** on the Potowatomi Trail. Awards. Limited to 650 participants. *8 a.m. sharp, Halfmoon Lake Beach, Hankerd Rd. (1¾ miles north of North Territorial Rd.), Dexter Twp. $72 by May 5, $82 afterward. $12 discount for USA Triathlon members. Entry forms available at eliteendeavors.com. $10 annual vehicle entry fee. (419) 829–2398.*

"31st Annual For Women Only 5K Run and Fitness Walk": Ann Arbor Track Club. Women and girls of all ages are invited to participate in a USATF/RRTC-certified 5-km run or fitness walk along a flat course on the campus of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Cash awards to overall, master, and grand master winners and awards for top 5 runners in 15 & under, 16–19, and subsequent 5-year age divisions. Followed by a yoga class. A portion of the proceeds donated to Girls on the Run of Southeast Michigan. *9 a.m. (registration begins at 7:30 a.m.), St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Ellen Thompson Women's Health Center, 5301 Huron River Dr. Entry fee: $25 (age 15 & under, $20) by April 26 & $35 (age 15 & under, $30) by May 10 at aatrackclub.org and by mail (mail-in forms available by emailing rachelpost79@yahoo.com), $40 (age 15 & under, $35) day of race. 332–9129.*

"Mother's Day Tea": TeaHaus. A full English tea with finger sandwiches, scones, and dessert. *10 a.m. and 1 & 4 p.m., TeaHaus, 204 N. Fourth Ave. $25 (kids age 12 & under, $12.50). Reservations required. 622–0460.*

★**"The Positive Quirks and Qualities that Make Ypsilanti a Great Community": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** Talk by Ypsilanti mayor **Paul Schreiber.** *10 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

★**"Mosaic Jewelry": Ann Arbor District Library.** Mosaicgeek.com creator Shannon Kuchera shows adults and teens in grade 6 & up how to make delicate mosaics to wear as jewelry. Supplies provided. *12:30–2:30 p.m. & 3–5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. *May 12 & 18.* Presented by park naturalist Mark Irish. *May 12 (1 p.m.):* **"Mother's Day Wildflower Walk."** A hike to look for spring wildflowers. *May 18 (7:30 a.m.):* **Bird Hike.** A hike to look for birds in a variety of habitats. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *Various times, Hudson Mills activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $3 unless otherwise noted. Preregistration required. $5 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★**Older Lesbians Organizing.** All lesbians invited to join a discussion of gardening. *1 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct. Free. 995–9867.*

U-M Detroit Observatory. Half-hour docent-guided tours of photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763–3482.*

★**Creative Flower Arrangers Guild.** Display of floral designs depicting biblical events. *1–4 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 434–3795.*

★**"Engaging with Art": UMMA.** *May 12, 19, & 26.* Docents lead tours of the UMMA collection, with themes based on their interests. *1 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

"Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as magical fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petits fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also, fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. *1 & 4 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $11 (babies age 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required. 665–9468.*

"Fun and Friendly English Dance": Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. NYC caller Gene Murrow leads dances to live music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, and Steve Schneider. *1:30–4:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

★**"Florencia Pita/FP mod": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit, an installation by Argentina-born, LA-based architect and designer Pita, whose boldly colored works are influenced by literature and biology and employ cutting-edge architectural fabrication techniques. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"Introduction to Arduino": Ann Arbor District Library.** All Hands Active members show adults and teens in grade 6 & up how to use Arduino, the popular open-source single-board microcontroller designed to make the use of electronics in projects easier. *2–4 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678–7549, 761–1451.*

"All About the Trio": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe leads her trio in the second of a two-part lecture-concert that pays tribute to Dave Brubeck. Today: music from early and late portions of his career, and his quartet's hit "Take Five." With bassist Paul Keller and drummer Pete Siers. *2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"The Lion in Winter": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 9 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Midsummer Night's Dream": St. Augustine's Homeschool Enrichment Program Campion Players. See 10 Friday. 3 p.m.

★**"Buddhist Thangkas and Treasures": UMMA.** Exhibit co-curator Donald Lopez and U-M Buddhist and Tibetan studies professor Arthur Link discuss the current exhibit of Buddhist religious paintings and artifacts. *3 p.m., UMMA Taubman Gallery II, 525 S. State. Free, but preregistration requested by emailing umma-tours@umich.edu. 764–0395.*

★**Student Recital: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Program TBA. *3 p.m., AASPA, 637 S. Main. Free. 213–2000.*

Keith Murphy: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. This New England fingerstyle guitarist, a native Newfoundlander, performs traditional songs from Newfoundland and New England. Murphy's performances also include mandolin and French Canadian foot percussion. *7:30 p.m., private residence (call for directions). $12. 769–1052, 274–0773.*

13 MONDAY

★**Socrates Café: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *May 13 & 27.* All ages invited to join a philosophical discussion that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. *10:30–11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

★**"Michigan at Antietam": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table.** Talk by MSU history professor Roger Rosentreter. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from Huron River Dr.). Free. (517) 750–2741.*

★**"Garment Design": Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild.** Clothing designer and pattern maker Christine Jonson discusses how to design garments using easy-to-fit stretch fabrics. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. jillault@umich.edu.*

★**"The End of the Constitution": Ann Arbor District Library/Ann Arbor Area League of Women Voters.** Talk by U-M political science lecturer **Lynn Rivers,** a former Democratic congresswoman. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Viewing Night": U-M Detroit Observatory.** *May 13 & 28.* All invited to peer at the night sky through antique telescopes. The Observatory dome can be opened only during mild, dry weather, so check dept.astro.lsa.umich.edu/detroit.php to see if the event has been canceled due to weather conditions. *9–10:30 p.m. (May 13) & 9:30–11 p.m. (May 28), U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free. 763–3482.*

14 TUESDAY

"Environmental Law at the Crossroads: The Quest for a Sustainable Future": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Talk by U-M law professor David Uhlmann, director of the U-M environmental law and policy program. Last in a series of 9 monthly lectures. *10–11:30 a.m., Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $10 at the door. $65 (members,*

Shinyribs

Roots sounds and verbal acrobatics

Shinyribs is Kev Russell, front man of the rootsy and durable Austin party band the Gourds. He got the nickname from a homeless woman whom he treated to some barbecue, and he began to develop a side band project under the Shinyribs name in a series of monthly shows around the Houston area, releasing an album, *Well After Awhile,* in 2010 and another one that should be ready for his appearance at the Ark on May 15 (see Nightspots).

The band's basic combination of funky roots sounds with original, poetic lyrics will be familiar to those who like the Gourds—think Tom Waits having a good time at a party, or maybe CCR transplanted into the jam band era. While the Gourds covered Snoop Dogg's "Gin and Juice," Shinyribs in concert offers a wry version of R. Kelly's "Feelin' on Yo Booty." He has a beer-drinking anthem, "Country Cool," with a charming buy-local component: "I don't like giving my dollars to China for this plastic paradigm. But I'll give 'em all to Mexico and Milwaukee twelve aluminum cans at a time." "East TX Rust" includes this bit of verbally acrobatic pickup good humor: "Baby, baby, time's a-wasting. If you're a-fooling, I'm a-fading. I'm advocating a mutual grazing, a face-to-facing I'm advocating. I don't have time for you to love me like a lawyer. I just want mine, I don't care which one of us is wronger ... Shake your bones, let's get it on."

With much of his own music Shinyribs goes into an odder and more personal zone, meditative yet fanciful and often humorous. He does several lovely gospel-flavored originals and a stark cover of Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come." "Poor People's Store" summons a flea market where you can buy "some knock-off jeans with irregular seams, chairs of beans and some beauty creams, Christina Aguilera black mascara, corn tortillas and some brown aloe vera, some socks with flames, pills for your pain, razors infused with the essence of rain, a cigarette lighter that says 'I'm a quitter,' and a fish that sings, 'take me to the river.'" His lyrics expand in imaginative chains that fill out the long, evolving soul-blues structures of the music in an unusual way.

Most imaginative of all is "Who Built the Moon?," which Shinyribs calls "a bit of a conspiracy theory of a song" and which he introduces with a preposterous account of astronauts who, he claims, have endorsed its story of the moon intentionally built up in layers from an onion. Shinyribs' live shows from SXSW have been legendary in recent years, and that may be where Ark programmers heard him and decided to give this wonderfully eccentric Texas artist a whirl in our town.

—James M. Manheim

$45) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are $20 a year. 998–9351.

★Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss 2 mysteries. William Kent Krueger's 1999 debut, ***Iron Lake,*** is about a former sheriff who gets drawn back into his work when the town's judge is murdered and a young Eagle Scout goes missing. Pamela Beason's ***Endangered*** follows a wildlife biologist whose dream of saving cougars is complicated when a boy vanishes from a Utah campground. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

"Vegetarian Cooking 101: A Spring Menu": VegMichigan. Cooking demo by VegMichigan representatives. *7–8:15 p.m., Whole Foods, 990 W. Eisenhower, Cranbrook Village shopping center. $5. Preregistration required. 997–7500.*

★"Wall Street Demystified": Ann Arbor District Library. AADL staff show how to use the Morningstar Investments (Chicago) database to get independent and trustworthy stock and mutual fund analysis. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department. All age 21 & over invited to discuss ***A Case of Conscience,*** James Blish's Hugo-winning 1959 novel about a scientist-priest who encounters an alien race ruled completely by logic. *7–9 p.m., 3184 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

★"Learn the Amazing Benefits of a Raw Vegan Diet": People's Food Co-op. Talk by local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required at the co-op or at peoplesfood.coop/news_and_events/. 994–4589.*

★"How to Feed Your Roses": Huron Valley Rose Society. Talk by club members. Q&A and refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free. 277–0112.*

"Valentine's Day at EMU": Measure for Measure. Performance by this local men's chorus, directed by Pioneer High School choir director Steve Lorenz. Also, several solo and small-group performances. Proceeds benefit a scholarship fund created in memory of Measure for Measure founding director (and longtime EMU choir director) Leonard Riccinto. *7:30 p.m., EMU Student Center Ballroom, 900 Oakwood (between Washtenaw & N. Huron River Dr.), Ypsilanti. $25 in advance at emufoundation.org and measure4measure.org and at the door. 481–2320.*

★"The Forest Unseen": Sierra Club Book Club. All invited to discuss David George Haskell's book—a mixture of nature writing, science, and poetic prose—that answers the question "What can you learn from observing a square meter of forest over the course of a year?" *7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

15 WEDNESDAY

"Giulio Cesare": Quality 16. *May 15 & 16.* Digital reprise of the April live broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of Handel's Baroque opera about the relationship between Julius Caesar and Cleopatra. Stars the world's leading countertenor David Daniels and soprano Natalie Dessay. The broadcast is reprised on tape May 15 & 16. *Noon–4:30 p.m. (May 15) & 1–5:30 p.m. (May 16), Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets $23 (seniors, $20; kids age 12 & under & students, $13.50) in advance at gqti.com/met.aspx and at the door. 623–7469.*

Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All ages invited to join a discussion of a book TBA. *12:30–2 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center. All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who offers a talk on a variety of spiritual practices. Also, socializing. *7–9:30 p.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, Suite 2 (entry on Glenwood). Free, but donations are accepted. 477–5848.*

★"Paddle Now, Chores Later": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk about canoeing and kayaking on the Two-Hearted and Pere Marquette rivers by Mich-

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igan writer Doc Fletcher, author of the brand-new *Michigan's Pere Marquette River: Paddling Through Its History* and 3 earlier Michigan river books. Followed by a drawing for a free canoe or kayak day trip. Signing. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss Amy Trubek's ***Haute Cuisine: How the French Invented the Culinary Profession.*** *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★**"The Birds of Hawai'i": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** Slide-illustrated talk by Livonia high school teacher Bryn Martin, an avid world-traveling birder. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–3275.*

★**Gail and Andrew Jennings: Bethlehem United Church of Christ.** Local husband-and-wife duo of pianist Gail and violinist Andrew perform an eclectic program of works by Beethoven, Williams, Chaplin, Ives, and Jennings. Proceeds go toward a new piano for the church's choir room. *7:30 p.m., Bethlehem UCC, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but donations accepted. 996–5508.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

16 THURSDAY

★**29th Annual Ann Arbor Springtime Invitational Figure Skating Championship: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.** *May 16–19.* More than 800 skaters ages 6 to adult from all over North America compete in solo, pairs, couples, and ice dancing categories in this USFSA-sanctioned competition. Full schedule available at annarborfsc.com. *10:30 a.m.–10 p.m. (May 16), 8 a.m.–10 p.m. (May 17 & 18), & 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (May 19), Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 213–6768.*

★**"Spring Cleaning": International Neighbors.** All area women encouraged to bring unwanted toys, books, and small household items to exchange. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 995–1645.*

★**"Ethan Allen's Last Homestead": Daughters of the American Revolution.** State historian Grace Bliss Smith discusses this Revolutionary War hero. *1 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 975–1976.*

"Giulio Cesare": Quality 16. See 15 Wednesday. 1–5:30 p.m.

★**"Music Play with Purpose": Ann Arbor District Library.** 5-time American Library Association award–winning musician and musical educator **Jim Gill** (see 7 p.m. listing below) introduces parents, teachers, and caregivers to a repertoire of music play activities to help kids develop abilities crucial to success in school. *4–5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Mary Lou Daby Spring Arts Festival": St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School.** Show and sale of student artwork, followed at 7 p.m. by *The Velveteen Rabbit,* a musical adaptation of the classic children's book, performed by 4th-grade students. *6 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi School, 2270 E. Stadium. Free admission. 821–2200.*

★**"Death of the Mantis": Aunt Agatha's.** All invited to join Stan Trollip and Michael Sears, who write together as **Michael Stanley,** to discuss their novel, part of a series set in Botswana that features the delightful Detective Kubu. They also sign the newest novel in the series, *Deadly Harvest. 7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**Jim Gill: Ann Arbor District Library.** Family-oriented concert aimed at preschoolers through 5th-graders by this nationally renowned musician and music educator whose concerts are known for their blend of rollicking, tongue-twisting musical play. His latest recording is *Soup Opera,* a sing-along opera inspired by concerts that Jim performs with symphony orchestras. *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Michigan Archaeological Society.** U-M anthropology professor emeritus John Speth gives a lecture that questions conventional descriptions of early Paleoindian (Clovis-Folsom) life ways and adaptations, with emphasis on mobility, the function of fluted points, and underlying motivations for big-game hunting. *7:30 p.m., U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 434 S. State. Free. (248) 437–4183.*

Joan Belgrave: Music Under the Arch. This veteran church-trained Detroit jazz vocalist performs jazz and blues songs from the 1930s to the present. Opening act is guitarist-vocalist Noelle Caprarese, the Saline High School 2013 talent show winner. *7:30 p.m., Stone Arch Arts & Events, 117 S. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Tickets $25. 787–1428.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

17 FRIDAY

★**Michigan Youth Euphonium and Tuba Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** U-M music grad student Michael Vecchio directs young musicians in works TBA. *3 p.m., U-M Stearns Bldg. Cady Room, 2005 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Introduction to Python": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staff present a hands-on introduction to this general-purpose programming language. *5–8 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Very Birdy Evening": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation/Huron River Watershed Council.** City ornithologist Dea Armstrong leads a bird identification walk through Furstenberg Nature Area. Bring binoculars, if you have them. *6–8 p.m., meet at Gallup Park Canoe Livery dock, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 794–6240.*

Ice Cream Social: Pattengill & Bryant Elementary Schools. This joint ice cream social features inflatables, a cakewalk, and carnival games. Ice cream, pizza, and popcorn available. Raffle of an iPad Mini and other items. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Pattengill, 2100 Crestland Dr. off Packard south of Stadium. Free admission; nominal charge for food & games. 994–1961.*

★**"Isamu Noguchi and Qi Baishi: Beijing 1930": UMMA Doris Sloan Memorial Program.** Isamu Noguchi Foundation (New York) director Jenny Dixon, UMMA director Joseph Rosa, and exhibit curator Natsu Oyobe discuss this current exhibit (see Galleries), a nationally touring collection of works by Japanese American sculptor Noguchi and Chinese ink painter Baishi. In 1930, Noguchi spent 6 months in Beijing, where he studied with Baishi. *6:30 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

"Night for the Rising Stars": Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts Benefit. Silent auction and performances by local mezzo-soprano **Wendy Bloom** and the **Keller/Kocher Quartet,** a top-notch local mainstream jazz quartet featuring bassist Paul Keller, vibes player Cary Kocher, pianist Phil Kelly, and drummer Pete Siers. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Tickets $50 (VIPs, $150) in advance at aa-spa.org/support/annual_fundraiser. 213–2000.*

"(un)Corked Wine Tasting: Everything Is Coming Up Rosés": Produce Station. Produce Station wine director Jorge Lopez-Chavez, J et R Selections representative Dan Farley, and Hand Picked Selections representative Joe Moorehouse lead tastings of 2012 rosés. *Note:* These events usually sell out. *7:30–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. $25 in advance at localwineevents.com/events/detail/469911. 663–7848.*

★**Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet-saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

★**The Hastings Trio: First Baptist Church Concert Series.** The local trio of violinist Gabriel Bolkosky, cellist Derek Snyder, and pianist Joel Hastings performs works by Mathias, Brubeck, and Mendelssohn. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. 663–9376.*

"Titanic: Tragedy and Trial": Young Actors Guild. *May 17–19.* Sue Roe directs young local actors in Pat Cook's historically accurate play about the Titanic. *Note:* kids age 11 & under must be accompanied by an adult. *7:30 p.m. (May 17 & 18) & 2 p.m. (May 18 & 19), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. $15 (kids through high school, $10). aayag.org.*

Student Productions: Pioneer High School Theater Guild. *May 17 & 18.* Pioneer High School students who have worked with award-winning local playwright Joe Zettelmaier perform several of their original short plays. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Little Theater, 601 W. Stadium at Main. $7. 994–2120.*

Waltz Night: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Waltzes to recorded music. No partner necessary. The program begins with a lesson by Pittsburgh dancer Gaye Fifer. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $7. 677–0212.*

"Around the World in Gaiety Days": Out Loud Chorus. *May 17 & 18.* Dan Gerics directs this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends in a program of songs celebrating different places around the world, from "The Girl from

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Crystal Moon Cone: Canterbury House. This trio of New York–based musicians Chris Peck and Jon Moniaci and U-M music professor Stephen Rush performs on laptops, guitars, accordions, balloons, organs, pianos, and children's toys. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students, $5). 764–3162.*

Doug Halladay's New Beginnings Ensemble: Kerrytown Concert House. Local musicians perform original songs by Detroit jazz composer Halladay, a prominent trumpeter in the late '60s and '70s. His compositions explore "a contemporary post-bop aesthetic with music that can range from straightforward song forms to freshly conceived multi-sectional works," writes a *Detroit Free Press* reviewer. With trumpeter Dwight Adams, violist Leslie DeShazor-Adams, tenor saxophonist Vincent Bowens, trombonist Vincent Chandler, vocalist Ursula Walker, bassist Mario Hayden, pianist Buddy Budson, and drummer Gayelynn McKinney. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Unframed": Michigan Dance Project. *May 17 & 18.* This Brighton-based group of professional dancers perform their contemporary, jazz, and hip-hop works. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 in advance at michigandanceproject.com; $15 at the door. (810) 229–5678.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Dave Landau: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 17 & 18.* Young Detroit stand-up comic with a laid-back performing style who's known for smart, edgy observational humor that's often spiked with improvised riffs. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $10 reserved seating in advance, $12 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. *10 p.m.–midnight. 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (enter through Haven Hall on the Diag side of the building). Free. 764–3440.*

18 SATURDAY

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. *May 18 & 19.* Large show and sale of antiques in various styles from Americana to Art Deco. No reproductions are allowed, experts check every booth, and the items' authenticity is guaranteed. Deliveries available. Concessions. No pets. *8 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $6 (children age 12 & under accompanied by an adult, free). (937) 875–0808 (before the show), 429–3145 (day of show).*

★6th Annual Car Show: Varsity Ford. Classic car owners invited to display their rides. Trophies for winners in various categories; dash plaques for first 300 cars on display. All invited to cruise through the exhibit or view it on foot. Proceeds benefit U-M Mott Children's Hospital. *8 a.m.–4 p.m. (swap setup, 7 a.m.), Varsity Ford, 3480 Jackson Rd. Free admission; donations accepted. 996–2300.*

5K Fun Run & Family Walk: The Kite Network. Noncompetitive 5-km run and a 1-mile walk. Proceeds benefit the Kite Network, a peer-to-peer grief counseling organization. *9 a.m. (registration begins at 7:30 a.m.), Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $30 for 5-km run & $10 for 1-mile walk in advance at thekitenetwork.com, $35 for 5-km run & $15 for 1-mile walk day of race. $5 vehicle entry fee. (313) 300–9737.*

Victorian Society of Michigan. Social hour followed at 10 a.m. by a talk by retired Saline High School English and history teacher Susan Nenadic, who discusses her experience researching *A Purse of Her Own,* her book about 19th-century working women. Followed by a tour of the U-M Bentley Historical Library, lunch at Argiero's, and a presentation on lithopanes by Dinnerware Museum founding director Margaret Carney. The day concludes at 4:30 p.m. with high tea at TeaHaus. *9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Bentley Library, 1150 Beal. Cost TBA. 604–2467.*

★"Isamu Noguchi and Qi Baishi: And Other Inspiring Encounters in and Beyond Modern Asian Art": UMMA. Daylong series of talks by visiting

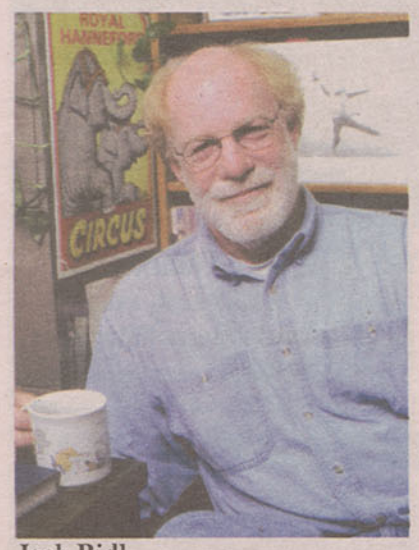
poetry

Jack Ridl and Chris Dombrowski

Teacher / student

I'm not sure what other people expect when they read a writer and his or her teacher. Maybe they think the influence will be so great that it is overwhelming. I, on the other hand, usually think that the student will try so hard to get past the teacher's influence that the work will bear little or no obvious relationship.

Jack Ridl and his former student Chris Dombrowski both have new books out from the same press (Wayne State). Read side by side, it's evident that they've found a middle way: while Dombrowski shares concerns and a genre with his former teacher, his diction and line are completely different.



Jack Ridl

Ridl, professor emeritus at Hope College, was for many years one of the best-known teachers of writing in Michigan. He has won awards for it, including being named Michigan's Professor the Year in 1996 by the Carnegie Foundation. He has published poems, anthologies, and textbooks over the years. He seems to be taking good advantage of retirement by writing more poems—wonderfully direct, plainspoken poems that approach the big subjects of life but always at an oblique angle. As in earlier works, in this new book, *Practicing to Walk Like a Heron,* Ridl never beats his reader over the head but lets the power of the poem creep up slowly. He can be comfortably nostalgic if the poem calls for it. "Growing up in a Small Town" begins: "In the summer, the pickup / games start by nine or ten // in the park or the field / behind Mrs. Wilson's. / They go on all day." Just eight lines later the poem ends: "If it's winter, the walks are all shoveled. // If sometimes one isn't, by noon someone / will notice and clear the way, tap on the front door." It is both reassuring and ominous.

Dombrowski, now one of the writing teachers in the innovative creative writing program at the Interlochen Arts Academy outside Traverse City, shares the domestic concerns and the sense of familial continuity that occupy his former teacher, yet he often puts his words in a challenging syntax that forces the reader to stop and reevaluate them. His new collection, *Earth Again,* has several long and ambitious poems. "Not Knowledge" is a complex poem that directly challenges Keats' sentence "Memory should not be called knowledge." It begins "My mother's brother's friend: so tall in her memory / he seems as she talks of him like memory itself. / He walked her home a time or two, his brown corduroys / coming together at his knees, the wales scratching out / a sturdy rhythm near her ears …" And then Dombrowksi has an eight-line parenthetical moment in his mother's voice, before returning to the same sentence. Even the word "wales"—which I had to look up to see what it was doing in this context—forced me to step back a moment from the action the poet describes. Yet the force of Dombrowski's poems is always directed toward the questions of continuity and the place of the poet in the natural world. There is a continuing seriousness of purpose he may have learned from his former teacher, Jack Ridl.

Both poets read from their work at the downtown library on May 18 as part of the "Made in Michigan Mad Lib" event.

—Keith Taylor

scholars on the current exhibit (see Galleries) that highlights the creative relationship between Japanese American sculptor Noguchi and Chinese ink painter Baishi. *9 a.m.–5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★"Human Trafficking: Looking Beneath the Surface": First United Methodist Church Green Wood. Panel discussion with Ave Maria School of Law Community Development Law Clinic director Elizabeth Donovan as well as a law enforcement representative and a social worker TBA. Also, information about how to help fight human trafficking. Light lunch. *9:30 a.m.–1 p.m., FUMC Green Wood, 1001 Green Rd. Free. 662–4536.*

Nancy Prince: Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild. Talk by this award-winning Orlando quilt artist who is an expert on thread painting. Followed at 11 a.m. by a member show & tell. *9:45 a.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (members, free). (248) 349–7322.*

"How Does Your Garden Grow?": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All kids, accompanied by a parent, invited to learn how to make a vegetable garden. Also, a chance to decorate a small pot and transfer seedlings to take home. *10 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. $8; metered parking. Preregistration recommended. 647–7600.*

★Death Cafe. All invited to join a casual conversation about death led by local home funeral educator Merilynne Rush. *10 a.m.–noon, Crazy Wisdom Tearoom, 114 S. Main. Free. 395–9660.*

"Nature Tales": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All kids ages 1–5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited to hear stories about **salamanders.** *10–11 a.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $2 per person. 997–1533.*

★"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. Local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Folks, presents a program of music and movement for infants through 5-year-olds. *10–10:40 a.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

★Grange Junior Makers: Pittsfield Grange. Kids, accompanied by an adult, invited to work on electronics, robotics, and woodworking projects. This month: a chance to make a miniature kayak to learn techniques required for building a full-size boat. *10 a.m.–noon, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 926–5079.*

★Butterfly Festival: U-M Natural History Museum. A variety of family-oriented activities, including displays of live monarch butterflies and of their life cycle and a chance to examine butterfly and moth wings through a microscope and to make yourself a pair of butterfly wings. Also, weather permitting, a visit to the museum's butterfly garden to plant new perennials. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Festival 2013: Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. Jugglers of all ability levels invited to join jugglers from around Michigan and beyond for free-form juggling and workshops. Events include games, open juggling, lessons, a sale of juggling items, and more. *Note:* Attendees age 17 & under must be accompanied by a parent. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Wide World Sports Center, 2140 Oak Valley Dr. $2. (248) 990–8084.*

★"A Strategic Hour: Understanding the Times in which We Live": Ann Arbor Aglow Lighthouse. Talk by club member Jennifer Kuehn. Preceded at 9:30 a.m. by continental breakfast. Aglow is an international Christian organization devoted to meeting people's spiritual needs. *10 a.m.–noon, 340 WCC Liberal Arts Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 971–4545.*

★"Picnic Pops": Pioneer High School. An all-day outdoor musical bonanza of performances by local middle and high school bands and orchestras. Games, an obstacle course, and prizes. Hot dogs, pizza, and ice cream available. Rain or shine (it's under a big tent). *10 a.m.–6 p.m., PHS, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free admission. 996–3210.*

"Anne of Green Gables": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. *May 18 & 19.* Jacqueline Courteau directs young local actors in an outdoor production of her theatrical adaptation of Lucy Maud Montgomery's beloved 1908 novel about a spirited, redheaded orphan who gets adopted by a middle-age brother and sister living on a farm on Prince Edward Island. Bring blankets or chairs to sit on. *10 a.m. (May 18) & 1 & 4 p.m. (May 18 & 19), U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Tickets $8 (kids, $5). 971–2228.*

★2013 German-American Gaming League International Championship: Ann Arbor District Library. A series of videogame contests between 3 top local gamers in grades 6–12 with 3 winners of the German Library Gaming League. *11 a.m–2 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"The Verve Pipe Kids Show": The Ark. Family concert by this veteran dance-rock band, led by West Michigan singer-songwriter Brian Vander Ark, that recently released its debut family album, the helpfully titled *A Family Album.* It features energetic guitar-based tunes on such topics as breakfast cereal and getting up in the morning. *11 a.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA. U-M student docents read stories related to the art on display. Followed by an art activity. For kids ages 4–7 accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. *11:15 a.m., UMMA (meet at the information desk), 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★"Made in Michigan Writers Mad Lib Poetry Workshop": Ann Arbor District Library. *See review, p. 77.* All adults and youth in grade 4 & up invited to work with a group of WSU Press poets to create finished poems by incorporating randomly generated elements into partially written works. Also, readings by the WSU Press poets—**Jack Ridl, Chris Dombrowski, M.L. Liebler, Keith Taylor,** and **francine j. harris**—and 826michigan student poets ages 6–18. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

Beer Tasting and Silent Auction Fundraiser: Team Tour de Wishes/Arbor Brewing Company. A chance to sample 7–12 locally brewed beers, with an appetizer buffet. Silent auction. A benefit for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. *Noon–2 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $35 in advance only by May 11. 930–6935.*

★"Buddha's Birthday Celebration": Zen Buddhist Temple. *May 18 & 19 (different programs).* The most festive occasion of the Buddhist year. *May 18:* Panel discussion on **"Checking Out Buddhism"** (3:30 p.m.), with Zen Buddhist Temple members Leila Matta, Ivan Mayerhofer, and others TBA. **10th Annual Buddha's Evening Celebration** (6 p.m.) includes a buffet with vegetarian hors d'oeuvres, entrees, and dessert, followed by a program of music by the duo of **Joe Reilly,** a popular local singer-songwriter whose songs draw on blues, hip-hop, Native American, and other traditional American idioms and address ecological and spiritual themes, and **Allison Radell,** a singer-songwriter and pianist whose music draws on jazz, rock, and classical influences. *May 19:* The program begins at 10 a.m. with a dharma talk by resident priest Haju Murray and the traditional **"Bathing of Baby Buddha"** with sweet tea. Also at 3 p.m., an **"An Introduction to Meditation"** and at 7:30 p.m., **chanting and lighting of traditional lotus lanterns,** along with scriptural readings by representatives from other area Buddhist groups. *3:30–8:30 p.m. (May 18) & 10 a.m.–8:30 p.m. (May 19), Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. All events are free, except Evening Celebration (adults, $12; students, $6; small children, $5; families, $30). Tickets available in advance and at the door. 761–6520.*

★Oboe Studio Recital: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Performances by oboe students of Kaycee Ware-Thomas. *5:30 p.m., AASPA, 637 S. Main. Free. 213–2000.*

"Around the World in Gaiety Days": Out Loud Chorus. See 17 Friday. 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.

★Mitch O'Connell Book Signing: Vault of Midnight. This Chicago-based Ann Arbor–bred illustrator is on hand to sign his works. Also, burlesque performances by Dolly Dagger and Gala Delish, a display of O'Connell's artwork, giveaways, and

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more. Age 21 & older only. *6 p.m., Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main. Free. 998-1413.*

May Dinner/Dance: Greater Beneficial Union. Chicken cordon bleu, German potato salad, green beans, tossed salad, bread and butter, and homemade cakes. Coffee, beer, wine, and pop. Followed by dancing to German music by the **Rheinlanders.** Pretzels are served late in the evening. Raffles and crowning of a "May Queen." *6–11 p.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $25. Reservations required by May 16. 913–9371, 954–0057.*

"Bid to Build": Habitat for Humanity Annual Fundraiser. Families who have been helped by Habitat tell their stories. Also, live music by young Detroit singer-songwriter **Olivia Millerschin,** live and silent auctions, and hors d'oeuvres. Emcee is 107.1 DJ John Bommarito. *6–8:30 p.m., U-M Ross Business School, 701 Tappan. Tickets $50 in advance at h4h.org. 677–1558.*

★**"Dvhani: Sound."** Indian tabla player (and U-M visiting scholar) **Nawal Singh** is joined by local Odissi-style Indian classical dancer **Sreyashi Dey,** Hindustani classical vocalist **Vineet Kshirsagar,** and *Rabindra Sangeet* (Tagore songs) singer **Mousumi Banerjee** in a program of dance and music that blends various Indian styles. *6–8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. sreyashi@umich.edu.*

Spring Concert: Dance Alliance Repertory Company. *May 18 & 19.* Dance Alliance students perform ballet, tap, jazz, modern, lyrical, hip-hop, and other dance styles. *3 & 7 p.m. (May 18) and 1 & 4 p.m. (May 19), Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $13 in advance at Dance Alliance (811 W. Michigan, Saline), and at the door. 429–9599.*

"25th Annual Spring Concert": Measure for Measure. Pioneer High School vocal music director Steve Lorenz conducts this lively 90-member local men's chorus in an eclectic program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $12) in advance at measure4measure.org and at the door. 649–7664.*

"Titanic: Tragedy and Trial": Young Actors Guild. See 17 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. A graduation celebration dance with Pittsburgh caller Gaye Fifer and live music by Debbie Jackson, Susie Lorand, Brad Battey, and Alex Belhaj. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. Lesson begins at 7:30 p.m. Preceded from 3–6 p.m. by an **advanced contra dance** followed by a **potluck** (bring a dish to pass). *8 p.m.–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10 per dance ($15 for both afternoon & evening dances). 756–8441.*

"Milonga Picante": U-M Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *8 p.m.–midnight, Michigan Union Anderson Room. $10 (members, $5). umich.edu/~umtango.*

★**"Viva Verdi!": Arbor Opera Theater.** Arbor Opera workshop participants perform a tribute to Verdi. *8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 332–9063.*

"Pierrot Lunaire" & "L'histoire du Soldat": Kerrytown Concert House. *See review, p. 79.* Local musicians perform these two 20th-century chamber masterpieces. Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire,* an atonal song setting of 21 poems by Albert Giraud, stars the hero-fool Pierrot, portrayed by soprano **Jennifer Goltz-Taylor.** Mezzo-soprano **Deanna Relyea** sings Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat,* a challenging, expressionistic musical version of a Faustian Russian folktale**.** With pianist Kathryn Goodson, cellist Andrea Yun, violinist/violist David Ormai, flutist Erica Boysen, violinist Gabe Bolkosky, trombonist Michael Steiger, trumpeter Ben Thauland, bassoonist Jeff Lyman, bassist Cody Takacs, clarinetist Gregory Oakes, and percussionist Matthew Geiger. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Ragtime": Ann Arbor in Concert. This new local theater company performs a concert version of Terrence McNally, Stephen Flaherty, and Lynn Ahrens' celebrated 1998 musical adaptation of E. L. Doctorow's historical fantasy, a portrait of early 20th-century America, set mostly in NYC, through the lives of a Harlem musician, a WASP matriarch, and a Latvian Jewish immigrant. The score includes marches, cakewalks, gospel, and ragtime. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. $25 (students with ID & seniors, $15; VIP seats, $50) in advance at a2ic.org. 786–3868.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Unframed": Michigan Dance Project. See 17 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

modern heavy hitters

L'Histoire du Soldat and *Pierrot Lunaire*

Stravinsky meets Schoenberg

MARK JONES

Jennifer Goltz

Pairing Igor Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* and Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* for a chamber music evening at the Kerrytown Concert House on May 18 seems an obvious decision, given that they were written only six years apart by two of the giants of twentieth-century classical music. But in fact, the two pieces are seldom performed side by side. "These are two big, heavy hitters who are rarely in the same room at the same time," notes soprano Jennifer Goltz, who will sing the role of the narrator in *Pierrot.*

Besides their age, *L'Histoire* and *Pierrot* have much in common: Both employ a narrator. Both are based on French texts (although Schoenberg's is set to a German translation of the original and, in this concert, Deanna Relyea will narrate *L'Histoire* in English). Both are early works of their composers. And, eschewing standard chamber music ensembles such as the string quartet or piano trio, Stravinsky and Schoenberg each used unique, even idiosyncratic collections of instruments. Besides Goltz's soprano, *Pierrot* features a piano, cello, and three players who double on violin/viola, clarinet/bass clarinet, and flute/piccolo, respectively. *L'Histoire,* in addition to Relyea, features violin, trumpet, bassoon, trombone, bass, and percussion.

Built on an ancient Russian form of the Faust story, Stravinsky's *L'Histoire,* like most versions of the tale, features a fiddle, the devil, and somebody's soul at stake. In *L'Histoire* there is also a book that foretells the future of the economy. Violinist extraordinaire Gabe Bolkosky, who will lead the ensemble for this concert, last teamed with Relyea to perform the piece in 2009, just months after the financial meltdown of 2008. It was hard then to escape the resonance with events in the news, and it's still easy to make the case for its relevance today. (Hedge fund managers, pay attention. There will be a test!)

Pierrot also uses an old archetype, a stock clown/hero character from Italian *commedia dell'arte,* and "gets to levels of emotional and descriptive detail that is very rare in Western music," says Goltz. "There are moments of great exuberance, deep yearning, absolute longing, and despair, a homesickness you can't even fathom."

Both Stravinsky and Schoenberg were already in the process of breaking tonality's grip when they wrote these pieces, though Schoenberg was still years away from the twelve-tone compositions for which he is perhaps best known. Goltz, who wrote her doctoral thesis on *Pierrot,* says, "Schoenberg felt that tonality had been kind of destroyed, and there was no choice but to write in this non-tonal idiom. The last movement is—I can't really see it any other way—him saying goodbye to tonality and letting go of it."

Whether or not you're a modern music fan—*chacun à son goût*—this will be a rare opportunity to hear side by side two of the seminal pieces that helped define twentieth-century classical music.

—Sandor Slomovits

Dave Landau: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 17 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Around the World in Gaiety Days": Out Loud Chorus. See 17 Friday. 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.

19 SUNDAY

★**"Magee Marsh Wildlife Area": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** WAS member Karen Markey leads a field trip to this Ohio state park 70 miles from Ann Arbor on the southern shore of Lake Erie to look for migrating warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, thrushes, and perhaps even some owls. Also, a short stop at the nearby Metzger Marsh. Bring a lunch and something to drink; insect repellant recommended. Late afternoon return. *5:50 a.m., meet at the park-and-ride lot at Plymouth and US-23, to carpool. Free. 994–3569.*

26th Annual Michigan Vintage Volkswagen Festival: Michigan Vintage Volkswagen Club. Big display of around 400 of every sort of air- and water-cooled VW imaginable. Also, a swap meet. Rain or shine. Nonperishable food donations accepted for SOS Community Services. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Riverside Park, Ypsilanti. $5 admission ($12 to enter a car). mvvc.net.*

"New Balance Girls on the Run 5K": Girls on the Run in Southeastern Michigan. Noncompetitive 5-km run for girls ages 8–14 and parents, family members, teachers, and anyone else who wants to run with them. All finishers receive a medal. Followed by a **"Celebration Expo"** (9–11:30 a.m.) with live music, a bounce house, face painting, and other family-oriented activities. Food concessions. *9 a.m. (registration begins at 7:30 a.m.), EMU Rynearson Stadium, 799 Hewitt, Ypsilanti. $25 (kids dash, free) in advance by May 15 at girlsontherunsemi.org/events/GOTR-events.php; $30 day of race. 712–5640.*

★**Horse Show: Cobblestone Farms.** Horses and riders perform dressage, stadium jumping, and cross country riding. *9 a.m.–late afternoon, Cobblestone Farms, 6301 Gregory Rd., Dexter. Free. 476–6972.*

★**"Heart Walk": American Heart Association Fundraiser.** 1.5- and 3-mile noncompetitive walks to raise funds for heart disease research and education. *9:30 a.m., WCC campus, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free, but donations & pledges accepted. Preregistration available at washtenawheartwalk.org. 635–5748.*

★**"Walk for Israel": Jewish Hikers of Michigan.** All invited to join an easy hike of 1.5–2 hours in honor of Israel's 65th birthday. Bring a backpack, munchies, and drinks. No pets. *11 a.m., location TBA. Free. jewish.hikers@gmail.com, 883–9522, 665–4744.*

35th Annual Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair: Ann Arbor Antiquarian Booksellers Association. One of the country's top regional antiquarian fairs, with more than 40 dealers from 8 states offering manuscripts, vintage photos and prints, antique maps, and a wide array of old, rare, curious, and fine books, including first editions of Joseph Conrad, William Faulkner, and Mark Twain, along with collectible children's books, fine leather bindings, modern poetry, Michigan history, travel & exploration, illustrated books, photography, antique maps, cookbooks, and books in many other subjects. Admission charge benefits the U-M Clements Library. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $5 donation. 995–1891.*

★**"Sugarloaf Hill Secret Hike": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Guest hike leader Barry Lonik leads a 5-mile hike through mature woods and wetlands with

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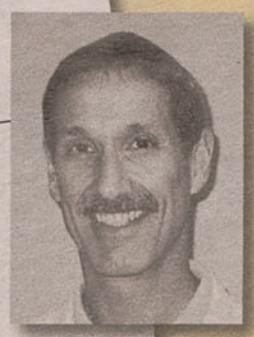

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10:30 - 11:30 Workshop
11:30 Tours

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views of 2 lakes. *Noon, meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse (2501 Jackson) to carpool. Free. 677–0823.*

★"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Yarn Bomb the Garden": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens invited to learn how to knit small pieces to spread in the AADL outdoor garden as a form of knit graffiti. Experienced knitters and crocheters also welcome. Materials provided, but bring size 8 or 10 needles if you have them. *1–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Anne of Green Gables": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. See 18 Saturday. 1 & 4 p.m.

★"Whither Thou Goest: Tracing Your Female Ancestors": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. Talk by veteran professional genealogist and former Genealogical Speakers Guild president Shirley Hodges. Followed by "There Are No Dumb Questions in Genealogy," a Q&A with a panel of club members. *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from E. Huron River Dr.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All kids, accompanied by an adult, invited for contra and square dancing with live music by David West and Donna Baird. Grange-baked cookies. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $12 per family. 769–1052.*

★"Talking about Race": U-M Natural History Museum. All invited to join a facilitated discussion after visiting the current museum exhibit, *Race: Are We So Different? 2–3:30 p.m., Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

★"Buddhist Thangkas and Treasures": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of Buddhist religious paintings and artifacts. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★Bonsai & Penjing Garden Opening: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Tours of Matthaei's new garden space. Also, traditional Japanese music by the *koto* (Japanese zither) ensemble Miyabi, a chance to make a Zentangle drawing, and more. *2–5 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. 647–7600.*

"Home at Last": Ann Arbor Concert Band. James Nissen conducts this local volunteer ensemble in Henry Fillmore's *The Klaxon,* Dvorak's "Largo" from *The New World,* Randol Alan Bass's *Casey at the Bat* with narration by AACB board president Phillip Rhodes, selections from *West Side Story,* Whitacre's *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas* with comedic video accompaniment projected onto a large screen, and Christensen's arrangements of *Best Broadway Marches.* Also alto saxophonist Kevin Dittman, the AACB 2013 Young Artist Scholarship Competition winner, performs Paule Maurice's *Tableaux du Provence. 2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $5; kids age 12 & under, free). aaband.org.*

"Titanic: Tragedy and Trial": Young Actors Guild. See 17 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★Preservation Clinic: U-M Library. All invited to bring in books, papers, photographs, maps, LPs, tapes, and digital files to get advice from U-M library staff on how to care for them. *2:30–4:30 p.m., U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery (Room 100), enter from the Diag. Free. 764–3166.*

★Cooperative Outreach Music Program Recital: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Performances by young local musicians who participate in an AASPA program that provides music instruction to under-resourced students. *3 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. 213–2000.*

"Around the World in 70 Musical Minutes": Washtenaw Community Concert Band. Chris Heidenreich conducts the 60-member band in works from around the world. The program is highlighted by *Carmen Fantasy,* a work based on Bizet's opera, with flute soloist Beth Wondolowski. The program also includes works by Holst, suspenseful works by John Williams, and works by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Reception follows. *3 p.m., FUMC lawn, 120 S. State. Freewill offering. 662–4536, ext. 0.*

★Spring DIY Fest: Ann Arbor Free Skool. *Rescheduled from Apr. 13.* Live music and other entertainment and food-related workshops with a focus on local food and agriculture. *4 p.m., Mark's Carts, 211 W. Washington. Free admission. annarborfreeskool.blogspot.com.*

★"Heirloom Strawberry Varieties": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor. Talk by Tanglewood Bakery (Plymouth) owner and small-scale farmer Emily Jenkins. *4–6 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

★Colin Knapp & Olivia Betzen: Ypsilanti Pipe Organ Festival. Organist Knapp and soprano Betzen perform works by Bach, Lili Boulanger, Daniel Pinkham, C.V. Stanford, and Daniel Rogg, as well as the world premiere of a newly commissioned work by Braxton Blake. Reception follows. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Free. ypsipipes.org, 482–1525.*

Ann Arbor Grail Singers. Carmen Cavallaro directs this 16-member women's early-music choir in a program that illustrates the evolution of Christian sacred music from 1150 to the present, including the 12th-century St. James Mass—first recorded example of 3-part polyphony—a rarely-heard Renaissance work by Francisco de Montanos, Pergolesi's moving "Stabat Mater," various Baroque and classical works, and modern works, such as Cavallaro's motet based on the Alma Redemptoris Mater chant. Accompanists are chamber organist Anne Crawford and viola da gambist Janet Cannon. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. $15 (seniors, $12; students, $5). AcademyofEarlyMusic.org, 662–0631.*

Irwin Cohen: Temple Beth Emeth Brotherhood. This Detroit native and former Tigers front office employee, author of *Jewish History in the Time of Baseball's Jews,* discusses the history of Jewish baseball players. Reception follows. *6:30–8 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard. $5 in advance at templebethemeth.org, and at the door. 355–2415.*

Creole du Nord: Mangiamo Italian Grill Acoustic Routes Concert. Manchester-based Cajun & Creole dance quintet. *7:30 p.m., Mangiamo, 107 W. Michigan Ave, Saline. $10. 429–0060.*

20 MONDAY

★Embroiderers Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects together and learn about guild activities. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7–9 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2230 Pontiac Tr. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues for those who join). 994–4385.*

★"Ice Cream Bike: A Sneak Peak at Go! Ice Cream": Ann Arbor District Library. Rob Hess discusses his new Ypsilanti-based mobile business offering a variety of local hand-made and often exotic and unusual ice creams. Tastings. Also, participants learn how to make lemonade and other fruit popsicles at home. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★Nonfiction Book Club: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of ***Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West,*** Dorothy Wickenden's book about her grandmother and a friend's transition from New York society life to teaching children of Colorado homesteaders in the early 20th century. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★"I Invented The Modern Age: The Rise Of Henry Ford": Ann Arbor District Library. Former *American Heritage* magazine editor-in-chief **Richard Snow,** an acclaimed and prolific popular historian, discusses his entertaining, meticulously researched new book. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★Stamp Auction: Ann Arbor Stamp Club. Auction of U.S. and foreign stamps, covers, and collector supplies. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761–5859.*

21 TUESDAY

Cobblestone Farm Market. *Every Tues. beginning May 21.* With a variety of children's activities and/or musical entertainment each week. *May 21:* **Face painting** (4–4:30 p.m.), storytelling by local early childhood education **Gari Stein** (4:30–5 p.m.), and popular local kiddie-rock singer-songwriter and electric guitarist **Mister Laurence** (5–6 p.m.). *May 28:* **Kids drum circle** (5:30–5 p.m.), workshop on **bicycle commuting for kids** (5–6 p.m.), and free **bicycle maintenance** by Common Cycle staff (6–7 p.m.). *4–7 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free admission. (517) 745–6124.*

"The Humble Chickpea": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Gluten-free cooking demo by a Whole Foods staffer. *6–7:30 p.m., Whole Foods, 990 W. Eisenhower, Cranbrook Village shopping center. $5. 997–7500.*

"The Aging of Wine": Vinology. Vinology staffers lead wine tastings. *7–9 p.m., Vinology, 110 S. Main. $40 (plus tax & tip). Reservations required. 222–9841.*

★"Generational Diversity in the Workplace": American Business Women's Association. Talk by

Ann Arbor 2013 Cultural Arts & Education Series

May 26, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Of Many Faiths: An Exhibit of the Art of Fred and Sue Beutler and Live Music by Mitch Chang of Los Angeles, California. Local artists Fred and Sue Beutler have explored the intersection of art and religion for many years. In this show of Fred's photography and Sue's oil paintings, diverse religions are evoked, from Russian Orthodox through Aztec. Many of Sue's paintings are ecumenical, interpreting several religions within single canvases. (Visit www.ukulelewebsite.com)

June 23, 1 to 2:30 p.m. A Michigan History through Song, Dance and Story. The popular Dodworth Duo entertains as they teach about 19th-century American life. Enjoy period music as Annie and Ted sing, dance, and tell stories about our history. The duo's performances are interactive, historically informative & invite audience participation.

The Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Cultural Arts & Lecture Series is made possible by a generous grant from the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor.

TO ATTEND THE CULTURAL ARTS SERIES PRE-REGISTRATION IS SUGGESTED.
To reserve your tickets please call 734.794.6250. Seating is limited so it's beneficial to call early. $5 general admission; $4 for 60 years and older.

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Ross Medical Education Center (Kentwood) career development representative Lisa Montross. Preceded by networking (6 p.m.) and dinner (6:30 p.m.). *7 p.m., Quarter Bistro, 300 S. Maple. Free (buy your own dinner). Reservations requested by May 15 at abwa-maia.org. 755–0575.*

★"Why It's OK (and Even Good) for Kids Not to Share": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by freelance journalist and blogger **Heather Shumaker,** author of the 2012 *Parents* magazine Best Parenting Book *It's OK Not to Share...And Other Renegade Rules for Raising Competent and Compassionate Kids. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4555.*

★A. Van Jordan: Skazat! Poetry Series at Sweetwaters. This award-winning poet, a U-M creative writing professor, reads from ***The Cineaste,*** his new collection of poems that explore film, poetry, and the elusiveness of reverie. U-M English professor and poet-novelist Laura Kasischke calls it "the announcement of an entirely new poetics [that] goes beyond memorable speech into an articulation of the spirit, the hunger, the enchantment and terror of a nation and a time." The program begins with open mike readings. *7–8:30 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 994–6663.*

★Jazz Band Concert: Huron High School. Program TBA. *7 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994–2096.*

★"Huron River Water Trails": Huron Valley Sierra Club. Huron River Watershed Council representative Elizabeth Riggs discusses efforts to create a 104-mile paddling trail along the Huron River. Riggs also shows the new Huron River waterproof map book. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 665–0248.*

The Moth Storyslam: Michigan Radio. Monthly open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3–5 minute story on the monthly theme. May theme: **"Busted."** The 3 teams of judges are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Space limited, so it's smart to arrive early. *7:30–9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), The Circus, 210 S. First. $5. 764–5118.*

★Spring Jazz Showcase: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Veteran local trumpeter Paul Finkbeiner leads AASPA's jazz ensembles, which include middle school through adult musicians. Program TBA. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 213–2000.*

"An Acoustic Evening with Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin: The Ark. In-the-round performances and duets by these 2 renowned singer-songwriters. Carpenter brings à beautifully expressive voice, intelligent lyrics, and a subtle sense of humor to her performances, which are as much fun to watch as to hear. Carpenter's penchant for sentimental ballads ("Not Too Much to Ask") gets her categorized as a country singer, but her range encompasses everything from exuberant dance numbers ("Down at the Twist and Shout") to bluesy funk ("Read My Lips") to haunting ballads ("Only a Dream"). She's especially adept at expressing the joy, pain, and maddening frustration of love, whether in the cheeky, upbeat "Shut Up and Kiss Me" or the ruefully defiant "The Last Word." A highly regarded singer-songwriter who has been compared to Joni Mitchell and Tracy Chapman, Colvin is known for her storytelling flair, pop smarts, and arresting blend of emotional intensity and sardonic wit. She has an acclaimed new CD, *All Fall Down,* that *PopMatters* writer Will Layman praises for its "sustained mood, its clarity of vision, its consistently lovely orchestration, and its pungent and specific lyrics." *8 p.m., Power Center. $30–$60 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

22 WEDNESDAY

"Straight Talk on Leadership": Ann Arbor City Club Lunch & Learn. Talk by **Bob Lutz,** the colorful former General Motors vice chair. The program begins with lunch. *11:30 a.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw. $25. Reservations required by May 17. 662–3279, ext. 1.*

★"Introduction to the Bonsai & Penjing Garden": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Club members discuss the new bonsai garden that they helped create at the U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. *7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free (metered parking). 647–7600.*

★MiRobotClub. All robotics hobbyists invited to work on and discuss robots. *7–9 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd north of Ellsworth). Free. (517) 618–9546.*

★"Drummunity!" Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Reading by veteran Michigan poet **Laurence W. Thomas,** the author of several collections, including the forthcoming *A Walk with Bukowski,* and the editor of the literary journal *Third Wednesday.* Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mike. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

"Preservation of Antique Objects": Salem Area Historical Society. Talk by Michigan Antique Preservation Company (Wyandotte) conservator Bill Witkowski. *7:30 p.m., Jarvis Stone School, 7991 North Territorial at Curtis, Salem Twp. $2 (members, free). (248) 437–6651.*

★History of Science Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss ***Alfred Russel Wallace,*** Peter Raby's biography of the 19th-century scientist who, but for some personal setbacks, might have proven natural selection before Darwin. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★"Spring Sing": Pioneer High School. Performances by PHS's 4 curricular choirs and 7 extracurricular choirs. *7:30 p.m., PHS, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 994–2189.*

Beaumont String Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. Founded in 2008, this area chamber ensemble includes violinists Priscilla Johnson and Judith Teasdle, violist Susan Schreiber, and cellist Stefan Koch. Program: Austrian composer Richard Stohr's rarely performed String Quartet, believed not to have been performed since its creation in 1942. Also, Schumann's Quintet in E flat, with local pianist **Louis Nagel.** *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

23 THURSDAY

★"The Latest Climate News—and What We Can Do About It": Ecology Center Annual Meeting. Talk by Ecology Center staffers Monica Patel and Kathryn Savoie and board member Frank Parkinson—all trained as climate leaders by the Climate Reality Project. Also, reports on Ecology Center program and tours of its green building demonstration facility. Election of officers. *6:30–8 p.m., Ecology Center, 339 E. Liberty, suite 300. Free. 761–3186, ext 104.*

Euchre Night: Out Loud Chorus Fundraiser. All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. *7 p.m., CUBS' AC in Colonial Lanes, 1950 South Industrial. $10. 973–6084, 663–0036.*

★"Herbal Allies for Women": People's Food Co-op. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Diane Feldt. Men welcome. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required at the co-op or at peoplesfood.coop/news_and_events/. 994–4589.*

★"Magickal Manners: A Guide to Magickal Etiquette": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Long-time Wiccan elder and ritualist Puck Shadowdrake discusses his new book. Signing. *7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–9468.*

★Choir Concert: Huron High School. Richard Ingram directs the choir in a program of works from Romania, Mexico, and the U.S., concluding with a performance of Biebl's Ave Maria. *7:30 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994–2096.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

24 FRIDAY

★Open House and Military Memorabilia Display: VFW Graf-O'Hara Post 423. *May 24–27.* Display of the post's military museum, which houses one of the largest private collections of military memorabilia in the Midwest, including uniforms dating from WWI, medals, gear, weapons, helmets, boots, patches, and personal items. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., VFW Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Rd. Free. 662–3972.*

★"Introduction to Web Applications": Ann Arbor District Library. AADL staff show how to build applications in Python using Google App Engine. *5–8 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★Gaming Tournaments: Ann Arbor District Library. *May 24–26.* Video game tournaments. Prizes. *May 24:* **"All-Stars Battle Royale."** For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *May 25:* **"Wii Sports Resort."** For all ages. Prizes. *May 26:* **"Mario Kart."** For all ages. *6–8:30 p.m. (May 24) & 1–4 p.m. (May 25 & 25), AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Geoff Tate: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 24 & 25.* Rising young midwestern stand-up comic known for his lazy vocal delivery and laid-back stage presence. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $10 reserved seating in advance, $12 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

25 SATURDAY

★35th Annual Great Lakes Special Stockdog Trials: Southeast Michigan Australian Shepherd Association. *May 25–27.* Numerous Australian shepherd dogs and other herding breeds compete by herding ducks, sheep, and cattle. *8:30 a.m.–afternoon, Imagine Farm, 10202 Hogan (east off M-52), south of Manchester. Free. 718–5081.*

★"5th Annual Classics at the City Club Car Show": Ann Arbor City Club. A show of classic, sporty, unusual, and rare collectible cars. Concessions. *Noon–4 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. $15–$20 to show a car; register at annarborcityclub.org/car-show.html. 662–3279.*

"Jamie and Jordan": Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Royal Oak playwright Kim Carney's hilarious musical about the importance of both a healthy lifestyle and a healthy friendship. Milk & cookies. For prekindergartners through 5th graders. *1 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youth under age 16, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

★"Ann Arbor Science & Skeptics: Scientists Fair 2013": Ann Arbor District Library. Scientists from the U-M and other local institutions with expertise in the Big Bang, particle physics, climate change, biomedical research, nuclear power, and exploring Mars are on hand to explain scientific concepts, answer questions, and/or discuss their own research. *1–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★"A Case of Redemption": Aunt Agatha's. Thriller writer **Adam Mitzner** is on hand to sign copies of his new book. *2 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★"March on Down to Riverside": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in a program of popular patriotic tunes. Bring a blanket and lawn chair. Rain date: May 26. *2 p.m., Riverside Park Pavilion, E. Cross at N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Free. 507–1451.*

International Folk Dancing. Balkan, Eastern European, and other dances to recorded music. The program begins with a lesson. *7–10 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $5 (students, $3). 709–8748.*

4th Saturday Contra & Square Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Reuven AnafShalom, Ed Vincent, and Marlin Whitaker call to live music by a band TBA. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a beginner lesson. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $10 (members, $9; students, $5). 786–8380.*

Amy Fedel Memorial Concert: Amy and Lisa Fund. Performances by the local folk-rock quartet **The Bonfire Poets** and the local jazz ensemble **Five Miles More,** as well as acoustic pop-folk originals and classics by **Mike Fedel & Friends,** a local ensemble led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Fedel. Held in memory of Fedel's daughter Amy, an 8-year-old who was killed in 1998 when the family's van was hit by a drunk driver. Proceeds benefit MADD and the Brain Injury Association of Michigan. *7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $10 (seniors, students, & kids, $3) suggested donation. mfedela2@gmail.com.*

PhoenixPhest Faculty Concert: Kerrytown Concert House. A chamber concert featuring members of this polished local ensemble and faculty from PhoenixPhest, a 3-day workshop for youth musicians. Program: Brahms' Sextet in B flat and other works TBA. Also, workshop students perform a concert tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. at EMU's Alexander Recital Hall (Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti). *7:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15 general admission. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

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As a commitment to quality, Ann Arbor Spine Center is the only spine center in Michigan to publish a Clinical Outcome Report Card and be credentialed by SpineCenterNetwork.com as a designated spine center of excellence. Get Back to Life in 2013. We believe the first step toward quality healthcare is a well-informed patient.

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"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Geoff Tate: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 24 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

26 SUNDAY

★**Dan Rice Memorial Regatta: U-M Sailing Club.** All invited to watch club members race their zippy JY15 dinghies around Baseline Lake in a regatta dedicated to the club's late longtime sailing instructor. *10 a.m., Baseline Lake, 8010 Strawberry Lake Rd., left from Mast off North Territorial. Free. 426–4299.*

★**"Tiny Toes": Ann Arbor District Library.** Former Louisville Ballet Civic Company dancer Morgan Grubola leads a dancing program for infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) based on her book, *Tiny Toes: A Creative Movement Class for Young Children. 1–1:40 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Of Many Faiths": Ann Arbor Senior Center. Reception for this current AASC exhibit (see Galleries) of works by **Fred & Sue Beutler.** Sue's oil paintings explore archetypes and symbols of many religions, and Fred's photographs portray and comment on the different ways people worship. *1–2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5 (age 60 & older, $4; kids under 12 accompanied by an adult and AASC members, free). 794–6250.*

★**29th Annual Memorial Day Observance: Arborcrest Memorial Park.** Tribute featuring remarks by congressman **John Dingell** and other speakers TBA. Attendees include the Washtenaw County Honor Guard, local veteran associations, Boy & Girl Scout troops, and others. Also, a bugle salute. Rain or shine. Limited seating; bring a chair or blanket to sit on. *2 p.m., Arborcrest Memorial Park, 2521 Glazier Way (behind the VA hospital, ¼ mile west of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 761–4572.*

★**"Isamu Noguchi / Qi Baishi / Beijing 1930": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit (see Galleries) that highlights the creative relationship between Japanese American sculptor Noguchi and Chinese ink painter Baishi. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–5763.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**"Day In and Day Out": Clay Gallery.** Ceramic artist Elliott Kayser discusses the current exhibit of his works (see Galleries, p. 69). *3 p.m., Clay Gallery, 335 S. Main. Free. 665–2621.*

★**"Fireside Fun": Leslie Science and Nature Center.** All invited to sit around a campfire, roast marshmallows, and swap stories. If you like, bring camping chairs and s'mores fixings (marshmallows provided). *6:30–8 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 997–1553.*

27 MONDAY (MEMORIAL DAY)

★**Memorial Day Parade: Glacier Area Home Owners' Association.** Ann Arbor's oldest neighborhood parade—and the best one in the area for young kids and their families—is a 6-block jaunt off Green Rd. followed by a brief memorial service in Glacier Highlands Park and a chance for kids to play at the playground. *10 a.m., Frederick to Middleton to Bardstown to Windemere to Barrister. Free. a2gaha.org.*

28 TUESDAY

★**"Miles & Ellie": Ann Arbor District Library.** Purple Rose Theatre artistic director Guy Sanville directs Purple Rose actors in a concert reading of Don Zolidis's new comic drama about a divorced and disenchanted woman who returns to her hometown, where she discovers her high school sweetheart is still carrying a torch for her. *6:30–9 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"From Fear to Faith": Dawn Farm 40th Anniversary Celebration.** Dawn Farm president James Balmer and Dawn Farm clinical director Jason Schwartz discuss the history of Dawn Farm and the evolution of drug-treatment programs over the last 40 years. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a reception. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 485–8725.*

★**"Open Mic Poetry Night": Literati Bookstore/ Neutral Zone.** Local teen poets read from their work. Also, an open mike open to all poets. *8 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

29 WEDNESDAY

★**Watershed Walk: Huron River Watershed Council.** Washtenaw County environmental manager Harry Sheehan and HRWC staffer Ric Lawson lead a hike to learn about the watershed. *4 p.m., County Farm Park, 2230 Platt Rd. Free. 769–5123, ext. 612.*

★**"DIY Websites": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lecture-demo by Boxcar Studio web design firm technical director T.J. Smith on setting up do-it-yourself websites using third-party commercial and open source solutions, including WordPress and Squarespace. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Dreaming a Place: Environmental Dance and Movement Meditation": Nightfire Dance Theater. Nightfire director Irena Nagler leads participants in a session of movement and meditation in response to elements in the environment. No experience necessary; children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring drinking water and whatever protection you need from the elements. *6:30 p.m., location TBA. $5–$20 sliding scale. 996–1772.*

★**"An Armchair Traveler's History of Istanbul": Nicola's Books.** U-M English professor emeritus **Richard Tillinghast** discusses his new book about Istanbul and its many distinct neighborhoods. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

30 THURSDAY

★**"The Original 1939 *Notebook of A Return to the Native Land*": Nicola's Books.** EMU English professor emeritus **Clayton Eshleman** discusses the release of the first bilingual edition of Martinican poet Aime Cesaire's masterpiece, which Eshleman co-translated. The poem marks the beginning of Cesaire's involvement in the Negritude movement of black francophone intellectuals who sought a common identity opposed to French colonial racism. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"Finale! 2013": Huron High School. *May 30 & 31.* Huron students perform 1-act plays that they've written and directed. *7:30 p.m., HHS Little Theatre, 2727 Fuller Rd. Tickets $6 (students, seniors, & AAPS staff, $4). Reservations recommended. 994–2095.*

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"A Small Fire": Redbud Productions. *May 30–June 1.* Loretta Grimes directs local actors in the Midwest premiere of Adam Bock's spare, poignant play about a long-married couple whose lives are upended by a sudden, debilitating disease. The play is "raucous, funny and unexpectedly touching, as we are made intimate witnesses to a frank demonstration of how much of life, of love and of happiness remain within reach even when so much appears to be lost," writes a *New York Times* reviewer. Stars Cassie Mann, Dana Denha, Brad Sharp, and Tim Grimes. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20 (students & seniors, $15). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Landlocked": Carriage House Theatre. *Every Thurs.–Sun., May 30–June 15.* Emily Caffery directs local actors in the Midwest premiere of Cusi Cram's poignant comedy about a Swiss collage artist who starts dating an American trash collector and begins a correspondence with a Bolivian man she meets at a gallery opening where he notices his missing dentures are a part of one of her pieces. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Carriage House Theatre, 541 Third St. $10 (students & seniors, $5) suggested donation. 546–6441.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

31 FRIDAY

★**Ice Cream Social: Thurston Elementary School.** Face painting, 4 inflatables, a soccer shootout, sidewalk chalk, bubble bonanza, jump ropes, corn toss, and more. Also, karaoke, a DJ, and a used book sale. Pizza & Iorio's gelato available. Rain or shine. Bring a blanket to sit on. *5–8 p.m., Thurston, 2300 Prairie. Free. 994–1970.*

Ice Cream Social: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School. Duck pond, ring toss, face painting, a cakewalk, a bouncy castle, live music, and a car raffle. Ice cream, pizza, and soft drinks available. *5 p.m., St. Francis School, 2270 E. Stadium. Free admission; small charge for food and games. 821–2200.*

Ice Cream Social: Pittsfield Elementary School. Inflatables, games, raffles, a silent auction, and, new this year, a photo booth and karaoke. Pizza, beverages, and ice cream available. *5:30–8 p.m., Pittsfield,*

2543 Pittsfield Blvd. (off Edgewood, off Platt, south of Washtenaw). Free admission (nominal charge for food & games). 997–1218.

Ice Cream Social: Abbot Elementary School. Bounce houses, raffles, cakewalk, dunk tank, and more. Pizza, snacks, and ice cream available. Rain or shine. *5:30–8 p.m., Abbot Elementary, 2670 Sequoia Pkwy. (off N. Maple). Free admission (nominal charge for food & games). 994–1901.*

Ice Cream Social: Bach Elementary School. A rock climbing wall, bounce house, caterpillar crawl, skee ball, and other carnival games. Also, dancing to music spun by a DJ (7–9 p.m.). Ice cream and other food. *Note:* games and concessions end at 8 p.m. *6–9 p.m., Bach, 600 W. Jefferson. Free admission (charge for food & games). 994–1949.*

Ice Cream Social: Angell Elementary School. Ice cream, pizza, cotton candy, bounce houses, tug of war, and other games. *6–8 p.m., Angell, 1608 South University. Free admission (nominal charge for food and games). 994–1907.*

Country Fair: Wines Elementary School. Cakewalk, a Barnyard Express petting zoo, face painting, photo booth, games, inflatables, raffle, and silent auction. Washtenaw Dairy ice cream, Dairy Queen novelties, NYPD pizza, popcorn, lemonade, and water available. *6–8:30 p.m., Wines, 1701 Newport. $10 wristbands (includes games & inflatables); food & cakewalk tickets, 6 for $5. 994–1973.*

★Larry O. Dean: Nicola's Books. This Flint-born Chicago-based poet reads from ***Brief Nudity,*** his new collection of poems concerned with the juxtaposition of elegy and irreverence. The collection is highlighted by poems told from the perspectives of victims of the 1989 Bay Area Loma Prieta earthquake. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"The Little Mermaid": Young People's Theater. *May 31–June 2.* Jayme Kelmigian directs young local actors in Howard Ashman, Glenn Slater, and Alan Menken's musical, based on the 1989 Disney film and the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale about a mermaid who gets a chance to be human. The popular score includes "Under the Sea," "Part of Your World," and "She's in Love." *7 p.m. (May 31 & June 1), 1 p.m. (June 1), & 2 p.m. (June 2), Power Center, 121 Fletcher. Tickets $15 (kids age 18 & under and seniors age 65 & over, $10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, mutotix.com, & by phone, and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

"Honk!": EMU Theatre Department. *May 31 and June 1, 2, & 7–9.* EMU drama professor Ken Stevens directs EMU drama students in George Stiles and Anthony Drewe's musical adaptation of "The Ugly Duckling," winner of London's 2000 Olivier Award for best musical. When a gawky duckling is cruelly teased by other farmyard animals and nearly eaten by a hungry cat, he flees for greener pastures. After adventures both rollicking and harrowing, he makes a beautiful discovery. Songs include "Play with Your Food," "It Takes All Sorts," and the instrumental and frog vocal suite "Pre-Warts," "Warts and All," "Warts-Off," and "Post-Warts." For families with kids age 6 & up. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), EMU Sponberg Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell at Jarvis), Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $12; kids 6–12, $7) in advance at the Convocation Center, the Student Center ticket office, the Quirk ox office, and emutix.com; and at the door. 487–1221.*

"Finale! 2013": Huron High School. See 30 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Peter Mayer: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Earthy, intimate originals by this Minnesota singer-songwriter known for his down-home wisdom on a range of topics from Buddha and Jesus to Isaac Newton and Harley-Davidsons. Mayer also has a warm, resonant baritone and is a fluid, rhythmically supple guitarist. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $17 (kids age 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"33 Variations": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"A Small Fire": Redbud Productions. See 30 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Mountaintop": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Landlocked": Carriage House Theatre. See 30 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Johnny Beehner: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 31 & June 1.* Popular Midwestern comic known for his self-deprecating autobiographical tales, many of them about his experiences growing up as an awkward middle child in a huge family. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $10 reserved seating in advance, $12 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

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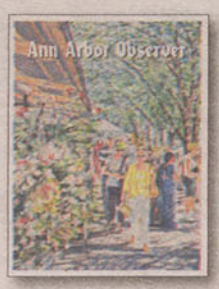
Publisher



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2935 EXMOOR, ANN ARBOR—Lovely Ann Arbor Hills home in a wonderful setting. This fieldstone and cedar shake home has quality details throughout, including living room and studies with cherry built-in shelves, beautiful hardwood floors, wonderful gathering room with bar and exposed fieldstone walls which opens out to a private and beautifully landscaped backyard. Comfortable and cozy kitchen/family room with fireplace makes a perfect place to sit and unwind, also leads to beautiful large screened in porch for relaxing in the warmer months. Formal dining room, lovely first-floor study can also be a bedroom with adjacent full bath. Master suite features high ceilings, fireplace, large bath with spa tub. This house has an upstairs laundry and a large mother-in-law or au pair suite with a private entrance and full bath. This home is wonderful for entertaining year round and shows pride of ownership throughout. This is a great place to call home—it could be yours! $859,000. MLS# 3211196.

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N.E. Ann Arbor Well maintained, quality custom home on acre wooded lot. Updated kitchen, newer roof, furnace, A/C. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, finished walkout. Ann Arbor Schools, township taxes. $498,000. Snow Liao 734-678-4848, 734-669-5814. #3211017

King School Striking 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath on private, wooded lot with great landscaping. Skylights, granite, 2 fireplaces, 1st floor study and master suite, screened porch, 2 decks. Great location! $515,000. Tracey Roy 734-417-5827, 734-669-5877. #3211561

Dexter Christian Tennant custom built home with superior materials, finishes, and amenities. Open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, library, formal dining, master suite, finished lower level. $675,000. Brian Hill 734-904-9185, 734-669-5833. #3210957

Dexter Totally transformed Websters Hills contemporary. Elegant simplicity, dramatic floor plan, top-notch finishes. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, hardwood floors, marble, clerestory windows. $739,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040, 734-669-6830. #3211364

Ann Arbor Hills Inviting classic manor home is absolutely enchanting inside and out. 4 bedrooms, 2 full, 2 half baths, 2 studies, 3rd floor, rec room. 2-car garage. Gardens, stone patio, .55 acre. $785,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #3211290

Ives Woods The grand entrance and gracious porch welcome you and your guests into a warm and inviting home. New kitchen in 2010. Formal dining, 2 living rooms, original woodwork, screened porch. $950,000. Deb Odom Stern 734-604-3704, 734-669-5969. #3211209

Burns Park Lovely 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home filled with charm. Coved ceilings, hardwood floors, leaded glass doors, au pair suite, 2-car garage. Fenced yard, perennials galore. Huge deck. $509,900. Carmen Knick 734-417-7307, 734-971-6070. #3211516

Vernon Downs Outstanding Arts and Crafts home with superior craftsmanship. 2,902 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms plus study, gorgeous gourmet kitchen, attention to detail throughout. Screened porch. $519,900. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #3210963

Chelsea Come home to executive splendor! Granite kitchen with Viking range and glazed cabinets. 1st floor master with spa tub. Beautiful hardwood floors, 10 ft. ceilings, dramatic views. $699,000. Rob Ewing 734-216-5955, 734-669-6834. #3210773

Newport Hills Georgous, 2-story colonial on peaceful, premium wooded lot. Immaculate! 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, open plan, stunning gourmet kitchen, hardwood. 3-car garage, Trex deck, garden. $749,900. Melissa VanDam 734-417-1581, 734-669-5954. #3211064

Pheasant Hollow Craftsman style home with top-notch finishes throughout. Wonderful floor plan, 1st floor master suite, cook's kitchen, deluxe finished daylight lower level with 3 living spaces. $875,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040, 734-669-6830. #3209945

Barton Hills Magnificent 6 bedroom, 4.5 bath home on 6.91acres with Barton Pond views. Renovated in 2010-2012, state-of-the-art kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, finished lower level. $1,649,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909, 734-669-5959. #3207864

Bridgewater Twp. Gorgeous, white cedar log siding home on 10 acres. 2,477 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 25 ft. cathedral ceiling and floor to ceiling windows in great room, finished walkout. 3-car garage. $509,900. Sue Rushlow 734-216-1161, 734-669-4524. #3211662

Vienna Woods Entertainer's home. Gorgeous views from every window, 4,000-plus sq. ft. Updated with sophisticated style, atrium, en-suite with private deck. Private acre lot, huge yard. $549,000. Julie Svinicki 734-358-7700, 734-669-6841. #3211392

King School Fabulous and unique space for those with discerning taste. 6,876 sq. ft. gem on a Natural Beauty Road. Indoor swimming pool, pond, 2.3 acres. Minutes from downtown Ann Arbor. $725,000. Susan Snyder 734-395-6924, 734-761-9429. #3209782

Ann Arbor Hills Fantastic 5 bedroom, 3 full bath home with 1st floor suite plus second floor master suite, 2nd floor laundry, remodeled kitchen, 2.5-car garage. Located on 0.67 acre lot. $775,000. Lisa R. Ridha 734-395-2586, 734-669-5896. #3211623

Dexter Welcome home to your own private and very custom retreat complete with amazing views of Looking Glass Lake. Stunning home on 9-plus acres, loaded with upgrades! Moments from the Village of Dexter. $895,000. Laurie Buys 734-658-7158, 734-669-5970. #3211406

Wines School Award winning! Picturesque collection of farm buildings, this bright contemporary has a living wing and sleeping wing linked by a walking gallery. Walled garden, carriage house, more! $1,850,000. Carolyn Lepard 734-417-2900, 734-669-6808. #3201492

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TRAVIS POINTE – Simply the best! Perfectly designed and custom-built 6-bedroom, 6 ½-bath overlooking the #2 fairway at Travis Pointe Country Club. The home is a showpiece of design, materials, and impeccable décor. Features include large patio with built-in Viking grill, soaring great room with two-story stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and one of the nicest finished basements you see. $1,195,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath ranch on an incredible 1.1-acre site in Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhood. This site is special with extensive landscaping, mature trees, and one of the largest backyards your will see. Home is substantially updated with great spaces throughout. Every room features oversized windows that bring the outdoors in. Open kitchen, master bedroom addition, and partially finished basement. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – YORK WOODS – Absolutely stunning waterfront 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home in one of Saline's most desired subs. Enjoy the finest lake front setting in the area from this stately custom-built home. Features include huge deck, great room with wall of glass to the water, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, incredible master suite, and finished walkout basement. $769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – This stunning custom-built home overlooks Brookside Golf Course and is loaded with all the features and amenities you've been hoping for. The exterior features incredible views, acre lot, large deck, in-ground pool, and basketball court. The interior is perfectly done including great room with two-story ceiling, cherry kitchen with granite, first-floor master, and finished walkout basement. $729,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS – Custom built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath ranch on 10 incredible acres in Salem Township. You won't see a home with these features anywhere on the market. Gorgeous setting with vista views, extensive landscaping and four car garage. Rock solid all brick home includes great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, gourmet kitchen with granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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STONEBRIDGE – Fabulous, custom-built 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home in one of the area's most desired subs. Great setting with one of the largest decks you will see and screened porch. The interior is perfect and includes two-story family room, oversized cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, den, luxury master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement with view out windows. $549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HIGHPOINTE AT STONEBRIDGE – Gorgeous, custom-built 3-bedroom, 3 ½-bath detached condo. This unit is loaded with all the current features and amenities you've been hoping for. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling, Brazilian cherry floors, custom kitchen with granite counters, den, luxury first-floor master suite, and a finished basement with large rec room, bar, study, bedroom, and bath. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home on 11-acres of the most beautiful land you will find. This home is your own private sanctuary surrounded by nature, total privacy, and just minutes to downtown Manchester. Home features two-story great room, open kitchen with custom cabinets, luxury first floor master bedroom, and finished walkout basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath ranch on a quiet lot in Stonebridge. This home has great flair and includes great room with fireplace, maple kitchen, screened porch, luxury master suite, and finished basement with view out windows, rec room, bedroom, den, and bath. You will love this home! $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TRAVIS POINTE – Very special 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on an acre plus lot in the area's premier Country Club neighborhood. Enjoy golf, swim, tennis, and fine dining walking distance from your home (membership required). This home is stunning and includes remodeled kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, open floor great for entertaining, finished basement, and huge backyard. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WINES ELEMENTARY – This sharp 5-bedroom, 3-bath, two-story with contemporary flair rests on one of the prettiest acre lots you will find walking distance to Skyline High School. Incredible setting with mature trees, extensive landscaping, large deck, and hot tub. The inside is highlighted by one of the nicest kitchens you will see. Cherry cabinets, granite counters, and high-end appliances. Other features include large great room, den, nice master suite, and finished basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Enjoy the best golf course views in Stonebridge from this high quality 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom ranch located on the #6 Green. Incredible setting features extensive landscaping, large deck, and one of the nicest sunrooms you will see. The interior of this home is sharp and features a great room with a vaulted ceiling, large open kitchen, nice master suite, and finished basement with large rec room, den, and bath. $439,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – This is one of the best homes on the market today. Great 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of the most popular neighborhoods in Saline Schools. Walk to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. Home features large backyard, two-story foyer and family rooms, den, nice master suite with walk-in closet, good-sized kids' bedrooms, and daylight basement. $418,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BRIARHILL – This 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial rests at the end of a quiet cul-se-sac has been completely redone inside. You will be impressed by the quality updates and stunning décor throughout this move-in condition home. Features include two-story living room with hardwood floor, maple kitchen with granite, great family room, luxury master suite, and walkout basement. $410,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on a quiet lot deep within one of the most popular neighborhoods in the Saline School district. Great lot with extensive landscaping and large deck. The interior of this home sparkles an includes hardwood floors on first level, maple kitchen, open family room with fireplace, den, luxury master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. $389,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Gracious custom-built two-story on a private acre lot just minutes outside of Dexter. Great lot with over 80 trees planted, has ample privacy, large deck, and great landscaping. The interior of this home is just what you've been hoping for, featuring a maple kitchen with granite, open family room with fireplace, great master suite, and nice sized kids' bedrooms. $379,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – GEORGETOWN – Highly desired 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most demand subs. This home is priced to sell! Great setting on a quiet street walking distance to Georgetown Country Club. Features include private backyard with large deck, large kitchen, formal living and dining rooms, oversized family room, and nice bedrooms. Hardwood floor under carpets. Great home. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WARNER CREEK – Perfect 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home on quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Great lot adjacent to common area with great landscaping and a large deck. The interior is picture perfect highlighted by the cherry kitchen with granite and Viking range, family room with vaulted ceiling, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $239,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Matt Dejanovich has been a realtor serving the Ann Arbor area for 25 years and has been a resident of the community his entire life. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his clients.

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FRAINS LAKE – Very unique 3-bedroom, 3-bath home highlighted by panoramic views of Frains Lake in NE Ann Arbor. Enjoy the gorgeous year round views of this Ann Arbor treasure. This home has been completely renovated and features custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, charming family room with fireplace, den, home office, luxury master suite, and additional 100-year-old one room schoolhouse. Perfect for home business or hobbies. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MATTHAEI FARMS – Stunning 3-bedroom, 2-bath custom-built ranch on a completely private 1.5-acre setting. Gorgeous grounds that are highlighted by mature trees, large deck, gardens, and one of the nicest screened porches you will see. The interior of this home has been completely redone and includes all hardwood floors, great room with fireplace and wall of glass, custom kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TRAVIS POINTE – Stunning 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on the #13 fairway at Travis. Enjoy some of the best golf course views anywhere from the wonderfully updated home. Features include great outdoor living space, remodeled kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counter tops, oversized family with full glass wall view of the course, great formal spaces, 2 dens, and nice master suite. Perfect décor throughout. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – POLO FIELDS – Completely remodeled 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial on a beautifully landscaped lot in one of the area's most sought after neighborhoods. This home sparkles with brand new custom kitchen, granite and stainless steel appliances, all hardwood flooring, open family room, den, formal living and dining, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $569,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STRAWBERRY LAKE – Spectacular 3-bedroom, 3-bath completely remodeled home fronting on the Huron River right at the entrance to Strawberry Lake. Get ready for a great summer at this unique, move-in condition home. Property also adjoins unbuildable conservation land. Home features view of water or woods from most rooms with tons of windows. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TRAVIS POINTE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath all brick home on the #17 fairway at Travis Pointe. Incredible setting with great views of the golf course from the large decks and screened porch. The interior of this home features two-story great room with floor to ceiling brick fireplace, spacious kitchen, family room, den, luxury master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. $479,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LOHR LAKE – Updated 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial on one of the best lots you will see anywhere. Enjoy this incredible setting from the oversized deck with views of the ponds and waterfall. Great backyard with huge grassy area. Interior features remodeled cherry kitchen with granite, open family room, luxury master suite with fireplace, and finished walkout basement. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE ESTATES – Six-month-old, custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial in one of Saline's most desired subs. Enjoy the spacious acre lot with complete landscaping and large brick paver patio. The home is stunning and features two-story foyer and family, dream kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, den, formal living and dining rooms, incredible master suite with huge closet and glamour bath, Jack-n-Jill bath, and 4th bedroom with private bath. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MIRAGE LAKE – Stunning all brick 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built ranch overlooking peaceful Echo Lake. You will love the setting that includes extensive landscaping, large deck, patio, and sandy beach. This home is perfect inside and features custom kitchen with Corian, great room with fireplace, dream master suite, floor den, and finished walkout basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Market Update – SPRING IS HERE!

Spring is here and now is the START of our busiest selling season. In reality it has felt like a spring market since last August. I have set personal records for sales in 4 of the last 7 months. The real estate market is showing incredible strength and opportunity. With our strong local economy, low unemployment rates, and low interest rates, demand for homes is at a level not seen in almost 10 years. If you are thinking of buying or selling a home this spring there are many factors to consider. Here are few comments:

SELLERS – The value of your home is at its highest level since 2007. Demand for your home is at the highest level since 2004. But this market is far from "easy". The issues of pricing, managing multiple offers, and successfully appraising the home with the buyer's lender are more complex than ever. It takes an experienced agent with an effective strategy to successfully sell your home and get it closed. Please call me to discuss your situation today, 734-476-7100.

BUYERS – Word on the street is that there are no quality homes to buy. Somehow I manage to lead the county in closed buyer sales year to date. I have been successful in finding the best homes available for most of my buyers (not all, sorry). The process of home selection, offer strategy, and financing are a challenge. You need an experienced agent in your corner to find the right house and successfully close. Call me today to start your search, 734- 476-7100.

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SALINE - This stunning 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two ½-bath former builder's model home is completely loaded inside and out with quality features and upgrades. This home lives great and features two-story foyer and family room, kitchen with 11' ceilings, cherry cabinets, and granite counters, den, oversized trim and moldings, luxury master suite, and finished walk-out basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MILAN – Stunning custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath home on Mirage Lake. You will not find a nicer view than what this home provides. This home has every feature you are hoping for and more. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite, and finished basement with 10' ceilings, dual rec rooms, bar, bedroom, and bath. $424,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – Nicely updated 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. Incredible setting with hilltop views of a nice pond. Home features great floor plan including two-story foyer, den, formal living and dining, large kitchen with granite counters, family room with fireplace, nice master suite, and finished walkout basement. $419,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – TORWOOD – Striking 3-bedroom, 3-bath colonial with incredible vista views. Enjoy the sunset from the oversized patio at this beautifully update home. Interior features include new kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, open family room with fireplace, den, master suite with updated bath, remodeled kids' bath, and perfect deck throughout. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Are you thinking of selling your home now or in the near future? I am currently representing many serious qualified buyers that have not found their perfect home in the existing inventory. Please call me at **734-476-7100** to discuss your home and how it may match my buyer's needs. Some of the homes I'm looking for:

- $700K – $1.5M All of Ann Arbor & Saline, custom, newer or updated, large yard
- $700K – $1.1M Ann Arbor Hills or Burns Park
- $900K – $1.5M All of Ann Arbor, private lot
- $700K – $1.0M Saline Schools, custom 4 or 5 bedrooms
- $500K – $800K Ann Arbor, newer or updated
- $500K – $750K Ann Arbor Hills or Burns Park
- $400K – $550K Stonebridge detached condo
- $400K – $500K Stonebridge, Lake Forest, Ann Arbor, newer or updated
- $350K – $450K Saline, York Township, one acre lot, 4 bedroom (need 2)
- $300K – $450K Ann Arbor or Saline, newer, wooded behind
- $200K – $300K Saline or Ann Arbor condo, 3 bedroom
- $150K – $250K Saline condo
- $120K – $200K Ann Arbor condo, 2 bedroom or 3 bedroom

ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP – Rock solid 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a 1.25-acre lot that is just GORGEOUS! This home is convenient to everything, just minutes to UM, St. Joe, Arborland, and US-23. Lot features mature trees and deep drop off the rear with great views. Home features large living areas and walkout basement. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – THE ARBORS – Move in 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo with a perfect east side location close to all hospitals and freeways. Perfectly updates including granite in the kitchen and all baths. Great floor plan includes great room with vaulted ceiling, nice master suite, and finished walkout basement with large flex-use rec space. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

UM STADIUM AREA – Nice 3-bedroom, 1-bath home walking distance to UM Stadium and dowtown Ann Arbor. Home has been nicely renovated with fresh carpet and paint. Property would make a great rental. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Fantastic 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home backing to a gorgeous common area. Enjoy great views of nature and a pond from the large deck. Home is sharp and in move-in condition. Features include large living room with fireplace, open kitchen, great master suite with walk-in closet and attached bath, and very nice sized kids' bedrooms. Basement has view out windows. $142,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE CONDO – Hard to find 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo walking distance to downtown Saline. Enjoy the great privacy of this end unit condo back to trees. Condo features great room with high vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, flex use first-floor master bedroom and bath, and second floor master loft with bath and huge walk-in closet. $139,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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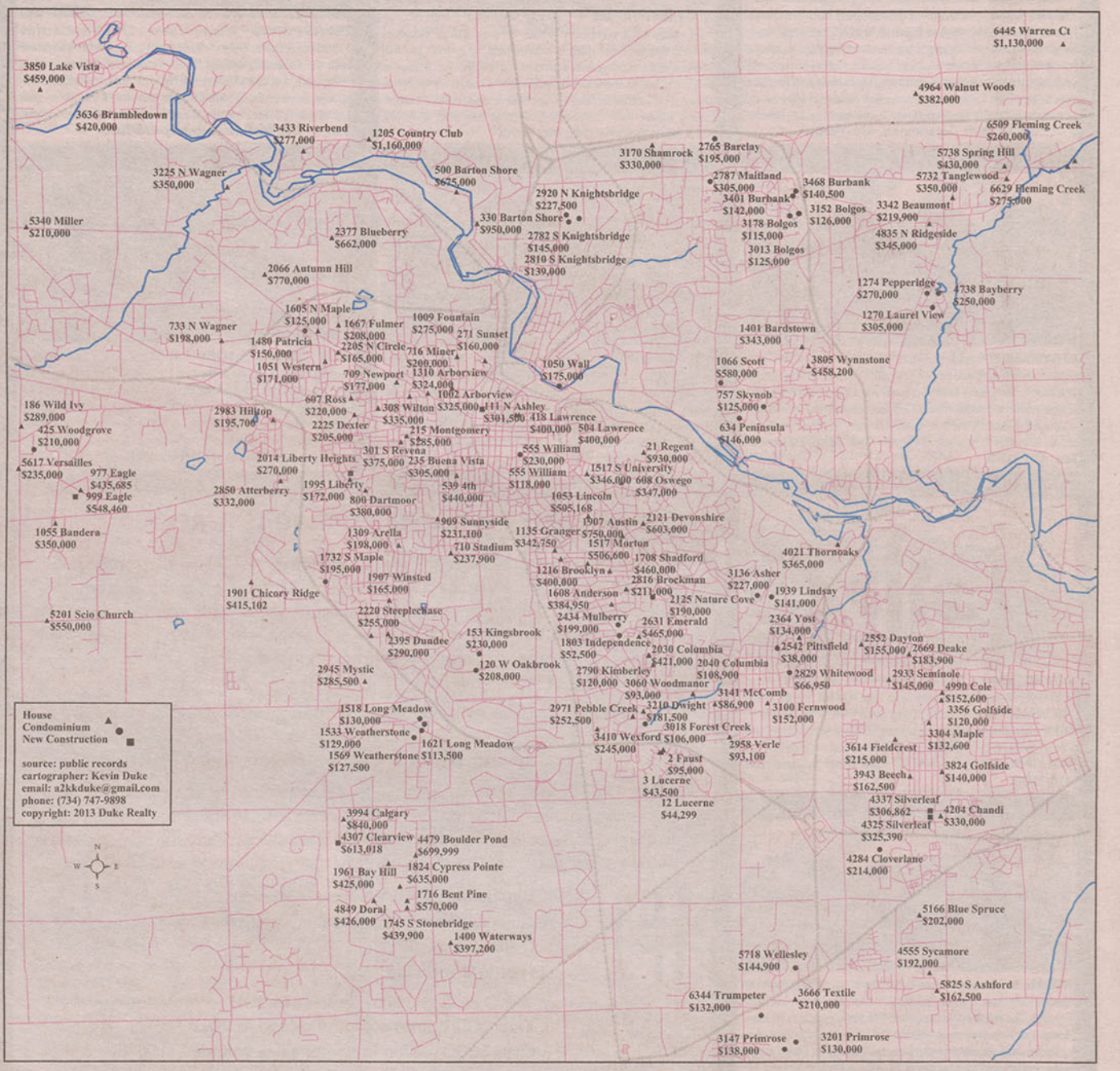
MARCH 2013 HOME SALES



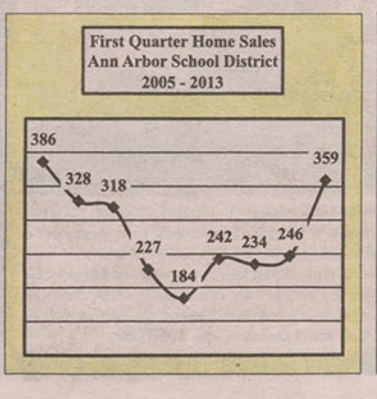
The number of home sales recovered dramatically during the first quarter of 2013. Public records document 359 home sales, counting single-family homes and condominiums, including new construction. That's nearly twice the number that changed hands in the first quarter of 2009, the low point of the real estate collapse in the Ann Arbor school district. An accompanying chart tracks 2,524 first-quarter sales between 2005 and 2013 for comparison. This quarter's sales outpaced every year back to 2005, when 386 sales were posted.

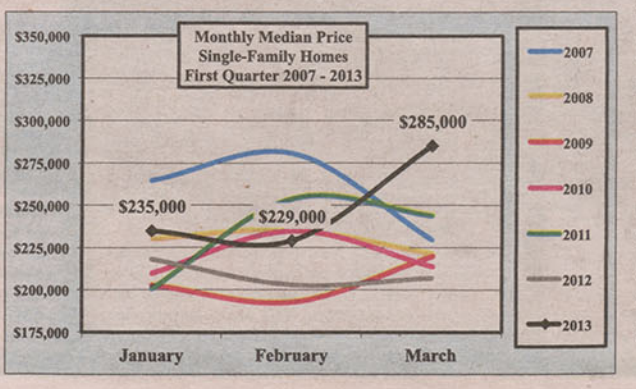
Fired by the spark in sales, the median selling price of a single-family home rose to $285,000 in March. The chart tracing the monthly median price during every first quarter since 2007 illustrates the recent and remarkable resurgence in selling prices.

March's map notes the addresses of 151 homes of all types that changed hands in the Ann Arbor school district. The lowest sale price, $38,000, was for one of the 422 condos in the Village Townhomes. Located across the street from Pittsfield Elementary School, the little one-bedroom, one-bathroom condo at 2542 Pittsfield contains just 614 square feet of living space. At least it's expansive outside—the Village's park-like grounds ramble over fifty well-tended acres.

The fascinating flipside of affordability is represented by the $1,160,000 paid for a sixteen-acre property in Hawthorne Hills on the Huron River just below Foster Bridge. Located at 1205 Country Club, the riverfront home has a neighboring house upstream that was built in 2005 on three acres and includes 7,350 square feet of living space. Another neighboring house built in 2001 is situated on four acres downstream and measures 11,384 square feet. One can surmise that the purchaser of 1205 Country Club treasured the lot not for the existing 2,257-square-foot house that was built in 1947, but for the opportunity to tear it down and replace it with a new one that will offer more living space overlooking the river. If that's the case, the buyer paid a relatively affordable $72,500 per acre for an incredible building site. An acre of land in other prime locations in Ann Arbor costs as much as $250,000.

—Kevin Duke





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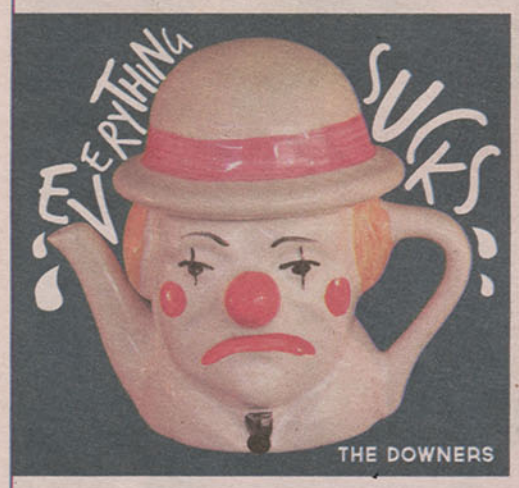

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Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

April's "I Spy is above The Ravens Club," writes Dan Romanchik—"the top level of the building at 207 S. Main Street," adds Sarah Schaefer. "At first I thought you were going for the historic name of an apartment building, but that didn't work out," shares Pamela Kittel, who identified the living space above the club.

"I recognized [it] with relative ease," writes A.J. Kydd, "thanks to my cousin … an avid photographer" who "took a photo of the very same window" while admiring architectural detail during an Art Fair visit last year. Known for jazz evenings, heirloom drinks, and a menu of roasted, braised local ingredients, the Ravens Club—identified simply by the image of the crooked-beaked bird out front—celebrates its second anniversary this month.

Seen on-site and about town

Our random-drawing winner from among thirteen entries correctly identifying either the Ravens Club or the building is Cathy Chow, who will take her gift certificate to Found in Kerrytown.

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above to identify the scene, then follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

"This month's Fake Ad is on page 78 and is ostensibly for a law firm," wrote Tom Weeks in his entry last month. "In fact, you adroitly hid last month's winner's name in the name of the firm: Flor-WET, ZELler and Faul, LLC. I love the double entendre of the name since one would Faul on a Florwet ... perhaps all the way down the stairs to the Zeller? Keep up the good work!"

Many entries predicted we would receive a huge number of entries this time, since the ad was so much easier to spot than the tricky "Morita" ad from the previous month. Truth is, we received only 123 correct entries—twenty-six fewer than in March.

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"The Fake Ad was filled with good ideas this month," wrote Amanda Kramer—it offered to sue on behalf of people distracted by billboards or deafened by TV ads. "I think we should be compensated for the amount of ads we are subjected to," wrote Kramer, "although not the ones in the Observer."

Our winner was Terry Morris, who's taking the $25 Fake Ad prize to Zingerman's.

To enter this month's contest, find the fake ad and follow the instructions in the box below. The Fake Ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.

To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy" to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. *You must include* your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received by noon on Friday, May 10, will be eligible for this month's random drawings. Winners will receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our April drawing!

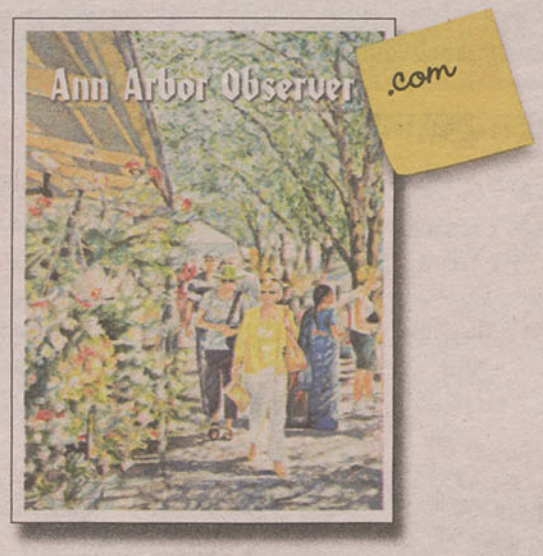
The following readers won a **$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

April winners:
Judith M. & John B.

If you would like to be entered in the May drawing for a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 86, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by May 15.

Thanks!
Observer Staff

What's going on in Ann Arbor?



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Events at a Glance

Daily ***Events*** *listings begin on p.* ***53.*** ***Films:*** *p.* ***61.*** ***Galleries:*** *p.* ***68.*** ***Nightspots*** *begin on p.* ***51.***

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- "Remembrance: The Universe of Charles Ives," May 1
- Ypsilanti Community Choir 30th Anniversary Concert, May 2
- Washtenaw Community Concert Band, May 2 & 19
- Dexter Community Orchestra, May 5
- Michigan Sinfonietta & First United Methodist Church Choir, May 5
- Northside Community Church Concert4aCause, May 5
- "A Salute to Broadway and Tin Pan Alley," May 10
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, May 11
- "Picnic Pops," May 18
- Measure for Measure men's chorus, May 18
- *Pierrot Lunaire & L'Histoire du Soldat,* May 18
- Ann Arbor Concert Band, May 19
- Ann Arbor Grail Singers, May 19
- Beaumont String Quartet, May 22
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, May 25

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

See ***Nightspots,*** *p. 51, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs*

- Singer-songwriters Bill Edwards & Whit Hill, May 1
- Jazz musicians Jonah Parzen-Johnson, Steven Lugerner, & Matt Endahl, May 2
- Singer-songwriter Don White, May 3
- Dave Sharp & the Secret Seven (jazz), May 3
- Folk singer-songwriter Josephine Foster, May 4
- Singer-songwriter Joe Reilly, May 10
- Singer-songwriter Tylan, May 10
- Fiddler Hanneke Cassel, May 11
- Jazz saxophonist Ben Jansson, May 11
- Alex Levine Quintet (jazz), May 11
- Jazz vocalist Joan Belgrave, May 16
- Crystal Moon Cone experimental trio, May 17
- Jazz trumpeter Doug Halladay's New Beginnings Ensemble, May 17
- Singer-songwriters Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin, May 21
- Singer-songwriter Peter Mayer, May 31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *33 Variations* (Purple Rose), every Wed.–Sun. & May 30
- *Evita* concert performance (Encore), May 2–4
- *The Mountaintop* (Performance Network), every Thurs.–Sun.
- *Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!* videocast, May 2
- *Shrek* (Pioneer High School), May 3–5
- *Macbeth* (Huron High School), May 3 & 4
- *The Tempest* (Greenhills School), May 9 & 10
- *Just Desserts: One-Acts, Shorts, & Skits* (Community High School), May 9–11
- *The Lion in Winter* (Civic Theatre), May 9–12
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (St. Augustine's Homeschool Players), May 10–12
- "Dance in the Mitten" (People Dancing), May 10 & 11
- *Ragtime* concert performance (Ann Arbor in Concert), May 18

Amy Hutchison performs in People Dancing's "Dance in the Mitten" show May 10 & 11.

- *A Small Fire* (Redbud Productions), May 30–June 1
- *Landlocked* (Carriage House Theatre), every Thurs.–Sun., May 30–June 15

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Billy Ray Bauer, May 2–4
- Comic Jackie Kashian, May 9–11
- Comic Dave Landau, May 17 & 18
- Comic Geoff Tate, May 24 & 25
- Comic Johnny Beehner, May 31 & June 1

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- 6th Annual Farm Festival, May 4
- Cobblestone Farm Spring Fling, May 5
- 3rd Annual Water Hill Music Fest, May 5
- Juggling Arts Festival, May 18
- Buddha's Birthday Celebration, May 18 & 19
- 35th Annual Antiquarian Book Fair, May 19
- Memorial Day Parade, May 27

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- "Made in Michigan Writers Mad Lib Poetry Workshop," May 18
- Poet A. Van Jordan, May 21
- Poet Larry O. Dean, May 31

Miscellaneous

- 35th Annual Burns Park Run, May 5
- 31st Annual For Women Only 5K Run, May 12
- Springtime Invitational Figure Skating Championship, May 16–19

Family & Kids' Stuff

- Children's book illustrator Erin Stead, May 9
- Ebird & Friends kids show, May 11
- Jim Gill family concert, May 16
- *Anne of Green Gables* (Junior Theatre), May 18 & 19
- The Verve Pipe kids show, May 18
- *Jamie and Jordan* (Performance Network Children's Theater), May 25
- *The Little Mermaid* (Young People's Theater), May 31–June 2
- *Honk!* (EMU Theatre), May 31 and June 1, 2, & 7–9

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Annual Fairy Door Walk, May 5

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